Daily Report

Near East & South Asia

FBIS-NES-95-193
Thursday
5 October 1995

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

Daily Report
Near East & South Asia

FBIS-NES-95-193 CONTENTS *5 October 1995*

NOTICE: An * indicates material that may not be disseminated in electronic form.

INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

Inter-Arab Affairs

Al-Qadhdhafi Visits Palestinians Waiting at Border *[AFP]* 1
Addresses Rally on Border *[Tripoli TV]* 1
Palestinian Man on Hunger Strike at Border Post *[JANA]* 9

Islamic Affairs

Kashmiri Leader Addresses OIC Ministers Meeting *[Islamabad Radio]* 9
Political Islam Review: 'AQIDATI 26 Sep 10

Palestinian Affairs

DFLP's Hawatimah: 11 PLO Committee Members Reject Taba *[SANA]* 11
Hamas Representative Says Jihad To Continue *[Tehran International]* 11
West Bank Poll Finds Plurality Supports Taba *[YEDI'OT AHARONOT 2 Oct]* 12

ARAB AFRICA

Algeria

Dembri Comments on Presidential Elections, NPT *[Madrid EL PAIS 1 Oct]* 13
Islamists Kill 3 Customs Officers Near Tlemcen *[Paris International]* 13
Ex-Founder on FIS 'Deviation,' U.S. Talks *[London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT 29 Sep]* 14

Egypt

Mubarak Receives 'Arafat, Delegation in Cairo *[Cairo Radio]* 16
Musa on Palestinian Self-Rule Issues, U.S. Policy *[MENA]* 16
Musa on UN Membership, Palestinian Expulsion *[Cairo Radio]* 17
Commentary Examines Musa's UN Statement *[Cairo Radio]* 17
Columnist Denounces Deportation of Palestinians *[AL-WAFD 28 Sep]* 18
Interior Ministry Official Views Elections *[MENA]* 19
Al-Azhar Shaykh Meets Archbishop of Canterbury *[MENA]* 19
'Terrorist' Killed During Unsuccessful Robbery *[MENA]* 20

Libya

Foreign Secretary Addresses UN General Assembly *[JANA]* 20
Tripoli To Provide Details of IRA Arms Shipments *[London THE GUARDIAN 5 Oct]* 22

Morocco

Chinese Prime Minister Li Peng Continues Visit 22
Meets Counterpart, Signs Agreements *[Rabat Radio]* 22
Holds Working Meeting With King Hassan *[Rabat Radio]* 23

Sudan

Government, Chad Sign Agreement To Mark Border *[Omdurman Radio]* 23

Official Accepts Iraqi Invitation to Referendum *[INA]* 23
Minister on UN Peace Seminar, Regional Ties *[London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT 4 Oct]* 23
Opposition Cites Claim of Regime's Role in Mubarak Attack *[Voice of the National Democratic Alliance]* 25
Opposition Radio Reports Capture of 2 Towns *[Voice of the National Democratic Alliance]* .. 25
Opposition Urges 'Uprising' Against Government *[Cairo Radio]* 26

ARABIAN PENINSULA

Qatar

Minister Supports Ending Boycott Against Israel *[Paris Radio Monte Carlo]* 27

United Arab Emirates

Iran Urged To Reopen Talks on Gulf Islands *[AFP]* 27

Yemen

Forces Arrest 'Disrupters of Public Security' *[Sanaa Radio]* 27
Planning Minister on Privatization, Reforms *[London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT 4 Oct]* 28

IRAQ

Al-Sahhaf Views Ties With Jordan, Syria, Egypt *[AL-AHALI 27 Sep]* 31
Minister Says 'Udayy Not in Position To Govern *[AFP]* 31
Ministry Condemns Iran Hosting Kurd Meetings *[INA]* 32
KDP's Barzani on Talks With Talabani *[London AL-WASAT 29 Sep-1 Oct]* 32

ISRAEL

Rabin To Open, Peres To Close Knesset Debate *[Jerusalem Radio]* 34
Labor Decides Knesset Vote Binding on Coalition *[Jerusalem Radio]* 34
Closure on Territories Extended Until 8 Oct *[Jerusalem Radio]* 34
Policeman Wounded by Shots at Joint Patrol *[Jerusalem TV]* 34
Beilin Said Involved in Jerusalem Solution Plan *[HA'ARETZ 3 Oct]* 34

JORDAN

IAF Figure Comments on Jerusalem Resolutions *[Tehran International]* 36
Al-Kabariti on Gulf Ties, Nonaligned Activities *[Amman Radio]* 36
Syrian TV Reporting on Opposition Criticized *[AL-RA'Y 4 Oct]* 37
German Official on Full Support for Peace Process *[JORDAN TIMES 3 Oct]* 38

LEBANON

Buwayz Addresses UN; Meets al-Shar', Musa *[Beirut Radio]* 39
Two Announce Candidacy for Presidential Office *[Beirut Radio]* 39
SLA Commander on Annexation, Bayt Yahun Operation *[Voice of the South]* 39

SYRIA

Al-Shar' Meets Saudi, Egyptian, Lebanese Officials *[Damascus Radio]* 41
Madrid Formula Said 'Road' to Comprehensive Peace *[Damascus Radio]* 41
Commentary on Peace Plan, National 'Interests' *[Damascus Radio]* 41
Party Command Member on Oct War Anniversary *[Damascus Radio]* 42
Press Calls For 'Rehabilitating' Peace Foundations *[Damascus Radio]* 43

Europe-Based Arabic-Language Newspaper Attacked *[AL-THAWRAH 12 Sep]* 44
Enhancing Competitiveness of Public Sector Viewed *[AL-THAWRAH 9 Sep]* 44

SOUTH ASIA

India

Article Examines 'Puzzling Paradox' in U.S. Ties *[THE TELEGRAPH 29 Sep]* 46
Minister's Activities at UN Headquarters Reported *[Delhi Radio]* 47
Party Spokesmen Comment on Gujarat Developments *[Delhi Radio]* 47
Rebel Leader Vows To Sabotage Kashmir Elections *[AFP]* 47
Official's 'Information' Indicates Hostages Safe *[Delhi Radio]* 48
'Notorious Militant' Reportedly Killed in Kashmir *[Delhi Radio]* 48
Article Views Impact of Sonia Gandhi Upon Rao *[AJ 28 Aug]* 48
Article Analyzes Sonia Gandhi's Political Plans *[PUNJAB KESARI 2 Sep]* 50

Iran

Canadian Official: U.S. Trade Embargo Not Working *[IRNA]* 51
Daily Warns Israel on Harming National Interests *[IRNA]* 51
IRGC Head Discusses National Defense, Nuclear Arms *[RESALAT 24 Sep]* 52
Nuclear Program Said on 'Verge of Collapse' *[London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT 30 Sep]* 55
Rafsanjani To Visit Vietnam, Philippines, Bangladesh *[Tehran Radio]* 57
Report on Opposition Leader's View of 'Regime' *[London AL-HAYAH 1 Oct]* 57
Military Uprising, Possible Scenarios Discussed *[London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT 29 Jul]* 58
Article on Daily's Claim on Pakhsh-e Now Company *[RESALAT 31 Jul]* 60
Article Describes National Government, Society *[London AL-HAYAH 16 Jul]* 60
Professionals Say Majles Must Defend Public Sector *[SALAM 9 Jul]* 65
Daily Views Accomplishments of Fourth Majles *[SALAM 16 Aug]* 66
Manager Details Refah Chain Stores, Profit Shares *[RESALAT 3 Jul]* 67
Daily Reports on Currency, Gold Rate *[RESALAT 16 Jul]* 68
Daily Interviews People on Consumption of Goods *[RESALAT 23 Jul]* 68

Pakistan

Daily Discounts Possiblity of U.S. Help in Kashmir *[NAWA-I-WAQT 1 Oct]* 70
Radio Reports on OIC's Declaration on Kashmir *[Islamabad Radio]* 70
Cabinet Hails OIC for Kashmir 'Observer Status' *[Islamabad Radio]* 71
Leghari Meets With Businessmen, Addresses Karachi *[THE NATION 3 Oct]* 71
Further on Leghari Remarks *[BUSINESS RECORDER 3 Oct]* 72

Sri Lanka

Foreign Minister Assails UN Sanctions Procedures *[Colombo International]* 73
Military Claims 7 LTTE Boats Destroyed in Battle *[DAILY NEWS 4 Oct]* 73
Offensive Reportedly Kills 'at Least 200 Rebels' *[DAILY NEWS 4 Oct]* 74
LTTE Statement Admits Major Loss in Battle *[AFP]* 74

Inter-Arab Affairs

Al-Qadhdhafi Visits Palestinians Waiting at Border

NC0410142595 Paris AFP in English 1415 GMT 4 Oct 95

[Report by Laurence Chabert]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] al-Sallum, Egypt, Oct 4 (AFP) — Libyan leader Mua'mmar al-Qadhdhafi visited no man's land between his country and Egypt on Wednesday [4 October] to explain to around 900 Palestinians trapped there why he threw them out of his country.

Al-Qadhdhafi has ignored international appeals and pressed on with his plan to kick out all 30,000 Palestinians from his country to show up "the failure" of the Israeli-PLO autonomy accords to create a viable Palestinian homeland.

The Libyan leader arrived by road at the 100-tent camp amid tight security in and around no man's land, to be greeted by several hundred people waving Libyan flags and pictures of al-Qadhdhafi.

Most seemed to be Libyans from nearby towns, and few Palestinian flags were visible. Dozens of grey tents could be seen in the desert behind the rows of security men holding back the crowd.

Egyptian officials at the al-Sallum border post said some 300 members of local Libyan popular committees arrived at the border to applaud their leader's speech and press conference.

"Al-Qadhdhafi is visiting to correct the false stories that the press have spread about the return of Palestinians from Libya to their land," a Libyan embassy official in Cairo said.

But al-Qadhdhafi began his speech by saying his visit was primarily to mark the 25th anniversary of the withdrawal of Italian troops from Libya. He went on to attack NATO's role in the Bosnian conflict and praised Egypt.

Libyan officials and poets gave speeches to rouse the waiting crowd, but did not mention the mass deportations until al-Qadhdhafi arrived, when they stressed the Palestinians' "right to return."

Tripoli insists the Palestinians are leaving voluntarily in a bid to "return home" to Gaza and the West Bank, a claim angrily denied by the PLO and by Palestinians who have crossed the border.

Egypt and Libya both closed their sides of the border early Wednesday, where the number of Palestinians trapped in the camp in the 300 meter-wide (990 foot) no man's land had swelled to around 900, Egyptian security officials said.

Some 500 Palestinians arrived in six buses late Tuesday in the zone, where they joined 400 Palestinians already refused entry by Egypt because they don't have the proper papers, the officials said.

Egypt has allowed entry only to Palestinians assured of transiting directly to the Gaza Strip or Jordan.

"There are now more than 160 families there. We want to speak with them and try to find a solution as soon as possible," Panos Moumtzis, a UNHCR official, told AFP before entering the zone Wednesday on a fact-finding mission.

"There are Palestinians who have lived in Libya since 1967 and were treated generously there. Now they've been thrown into no man's land," Moumtzis said.

But Egypt has still not granted permission to the UNHCR to bring aid to the stranded, saying they were a "Libyan problem", sources in the organization said.

The United Nations estimates 5,000 Palestinians have already been thrown out of Libya, and the pace of expulsions picked up in recent days.

Hundreds more have already been flown to Tobruk, 120 kilometres (75 miles) inside Libya, from various parts of the country after a Libyan diplomat said on Sunday that up to 5,000 more would be expelled this week.

Another 600 Palestinians left the port of Tripoli on Monday aboard a boat headed for Syria, the Egyptian government newspaper AL-AHRAM said.

Palestinians in the camp denied they were there of their own free will. "Where can a Palestinian go? We are stranded between heaven and hell," one deportee told journalists on Tuesday.

Others who managed to leave no-man's land said they were squeezed out after the Libyan authorities cancelled their work contracts. Some said they were given a deadline to pack their bags.

Addresses Rally on Border

LD0410203195 Tripoli Libyan Television Network in Arabic 1338 GMT 4 Oct 95

[Address by Libyan leader Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi to a rally held in the Amsa'as region on the Libyan-Egyptian border on 4 October — live]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] In the name of God. Brothers, we have chosen this place on this day in order to recall — we and the world — that barbaric invasion that expressed the culture of the Christian nations and the Christian religion — the culture of barbaric Europe. On this day, 4 October 1911, Christian Europe and the then

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

major Christian power, without pre-warning and without any guilt having been committed by the Libyan people and without a crime having been committed and without any [reason for] vengeance, this major Christian power mounted a surprise barbaric, treacherous, and savage attack. It carried out a landing at and naval bombardment on this place on a day such as this. Why did that major power at that time attack this innocent, empty, and isolated place? This is what we want to explain today at our celebration at this place on the 25th anniversary of the expulsion, after the revolution, of the Italians who used to occupy Libya. [passage omitted]

Colonialism fears Arab unity — the unity of the Libyan and Egyptian peoples, because with Arab unity colonialism cannot subjugate any part of the Arab homeland. With Arab unity, colonialism cannot occupy as it did in the past any Arab country. [passage omitted]

We are celebrating today, while we are free; however, brothers we tell you: Expect colonialism once more at any time. From this place, we address the following statement, particularly to the fraternal Egyptian people, the free people of Egypt led by the brother President Husni Mubarak. It is also addressed to the Libyan and Palestinian peoples, the peoples of the Arab nation, and the peoples of the Third World.

Brothers, NATO is preparing for a large-scale attack against the Third World. We are hearing now the sound of the NATO intercontinental missiles and the sound of its aircraft as they bomb Yugoslavia, not in defense of Bosnia-Herzegovina as believed by the naive and simple-minded people, who believe that the imperialist America defends Islam. Which Islam is defended by Christianity and which Islam is defended by America? This is a revenge on Yugoslavia, the leader of neutrality and the Non-Aligned Movement. This is punishment for Yugoslavia, which left the European Community and joined the Third World and the non-aligned camp. This is punishment for Yugoslavia. This is the beginning of the NATO attack against the Third World.

This place in which we are celebrating today is free and in it live the free people who must, however, get ready to face colonialism once more. [passage omitted]

O brothers, the liberated lands to our east and to our west are liable to be reoccupied at any moment. [passage omitted]

Egypt is the first country that will be attacked and the first country to be occupied for the hour of occupation might not see Clinton nor Husni Mubarak nor the friends nor the circumstances as they are now. Colonialism never cared for its friends nor did it ever have any friends. It never even bothers over its clients; it usually leaves them to fall into the dust bin of history.

Egypt will be the first country occupied. [passage omitted]

So-called Israel has got a flag with a blue line on top and a blue line at the bottom and the false [as heard] star of David in the middle. These are slogans that are being held over the heads of the Israelis to give them a direction and a purpose. They have a meaning.

This star is the Israeli state with its borders: The Nile and the Euphrates. This is the first aim. The second is the invasion of all North Africa to turn it into Jewish [land], then the invasion of the Fertile Crescent to reach Mecca and Medinah and make them Jewish properties. This is the Israeli scheme that they will be pursuing forever. [passage omitted]

The Israelis will never allow the establishment of a Palestinian state. They will never allow Egypt to become a strong or stronger state than they are. America will never allow Egypt to become strong. America does not trust the Arabs; it does not rely on them either.

America trusts the Israelis; it relies on them to control the Middle East on its behalf. The first benefit from this control is to ensure that oil continues flowing to the United States of America. Oil in the Gulf must be under Israeli control no matter who the Gulf Arabs are friendly with or if they loyal to the United States. America knows that these regimes may change overnight.

Libya was yesterday subservient to America and was a region under the influence of America and suddenly it turned into a revolutionary state that is anti-imperialist and anticolonialist. [applause]

America knows that the situation in the Gulf can be changed at any time by unforeseen events. Egypt, Jordan, and any state can change and, consequently, America cannot leave the future of oil in the hands of the Arabs even if they are its lackeys. America will not rest assured. The energy and oil resources can only be guaranteed if they are under the control of the Israelis.

What does it mean when we see a state like Qatar decide to supply gas to the Israeli enemy and open, yesterday, a trade embassy between Muscat and Tel Aviv?

This means the beginning of Israeli expansionism and the control over the Gulf and the oil wells, so America guarantees that its natural ally, which is Israel, controls oil and puts its hand on it and, consequently, America is reassured that oil will continue to flow to the United States. As far as Western strategy is concerned, it is not possible to have any stability in these regions and it is

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

not possible to have a continued flow of oil to America as long as Israel does not control Egypt and the Arab oil.

America relies on the oil well in the Gulf. This is very important, it is a matter of life or death as far as America is concerned. These are imperialist designs. Oil in the Gulf belongs to the Arabs, but America wants to seize any resource in the world.

NATO is, after Yugoslavia, expanding even to Russia. These are the same aims as those of Hitler. They want to take the oil, iron, and gold in Russia. Russia is targeted by NATO and Russia has now become aware of this. [passage omitted]

We are living through one of the worst periods of history, falsification, fabrication, and encroachment. We at this place see with our eyes, and I was surprised to see this scene that we see now: Palestinian camps. The Palestinians who [words indistinct] The Palestinian who were in Libya [word indistinct] the Palestinians who have been in Libya for scores of years.

All Libya's problems with the West were for the sake of the Palestinian people and the issue of Palestine. No one can deny this. No one can have a one-upmanship on Libya. [applause and cheers]

[Words indistinct: al-Qadhdhafi's voice drowned out by cheers] [passage omitted]

What was the reason? The reason was the issue of Palestine. Had it not been for Palestine 176 NATO planes would not have attacked us. Any country in the world to be attacked by 176 warplanes at that time [word indistinct] a surprise attack and not in a state of war. This has made Libya a great power — to be called great. It is because it resisted an attack from a great power against another great power.

Why were 138 warplanes used to hit the house of al-Qadhdhafi? What for? Did we have common borders between us and the United States or are there debts between us and America? Were there bilateral problems between us and America? No, there were no bilateral problems between us and America. There is though, the problem of Palestine. The Palestinian people — the central issue of the Arab nation, the sacred issue which is being squandered. The Palestinian people are being sold as a merchandise.

I support this one and antagonize that one. They wanted to get rid of me by physical liquidation. Therefore, there is no one who can have one-upmanship on Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi when it comes to the question of the Palestinians. I am the first one held dear to the Palestinian people and the first one who defended the Palestinian people. I am the most loyal of all and most generous of all to the Palestinian people anywhere on the globe. [Words indistinct: remarks drowned out by cheers]

Bring any Palestinian leader and let us hold a referendum between him and myself among the Palestinian people — I challenge any of them especially Abu-'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat]. I was surprised to see Palestinians, who had lived for tens of years in Libya honored and loved; they lived in a revolutionary country — a country shouldering all problems for the sake of the cause of the Palestinian people; the Palestinians lived in Libya without being a burden on the Libyan people; they lived and worked as teachers, doctors, engineers, technical workers; they lived on their sweat and effort; they participated with the Libyan people in building, reconstruction, development, and the transformation from backwardness to advancement [applause]; no one in Libya gave charity to the Palestinians as the latter lived on their own efficiency and effort. But what has happened now? How after tens of years of having resided in Libya, tens of thousands of Palestinians are told by Libya or the Palestinians themselves say: Go to this arid desert place and live in these tents. What is the reason for this? The reason is clear. Overnight, the Arab rulers, and with them the Americans and the West, told us that Israel is no longer Israel, and that Zionism is no longer Zionism, and the enemy is no longer an enemy. What has happened? They said: That is it. [words indistinct followed by cheers] This is what they told us.

All right. We saw the leaders of Zionism embracing the Palestinian leaders. We saw the chairman of the Palestinian people Yasir 'Arafat — who is the chairman of the PLO — warmly embacring the Zionist leaders. They embraced each other warmly in Amman, Oman, Qatar, and throughout the Arab Maghreb. There is no Arab capital that does not have an Israeli ambassador; you should know this. There are only three Arab states in addition to Libya that do not; all the rest of the Arab states have Israeli ambassadors in their capitals and have ambassadors in Tel Aviv, overtly or covertly. Why? They said: That is it; the question of Palestine has ended. Praise be to God.

Libya approached the Palestinian brothers and told them: Here is the good news — the problem has been solved. You for decades have been refugees. Now you have become citizens in your own country. You had no identities for years and now you will have national identities. Now you have a homeland. You have lived on the strength of a temporary document called the Palestinian travel document or the document of Palestinian refugee. You used to be refugees and now you will become citizens. You will have a national

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

passport. Why? Because we saw your chairman Yasir 'Arafat in Palestine and we saw the Palestinian flag and the Palestinian presidential guard and the Palestinian police and even the Palestinian prisons! Therefore, the problems have been solved.

You the Libyans are the only ones who do not understand, you are fanatics, and you do not know the change that has taken place. Which change? They said we will solve the Palestinian issue. They said only Libya is the odd one out and is outside the consensus. Praise be to God, our Palestinian brothers in Libya heard the news that they now have a homeland, a president, a flag, a police, prisoners, courts, and a whip in the hand of Abu-'Ammar. Praise be to God, we are all the same as all Arab rulers must be like that. [applause]

Our Palestinian brothers in Libya have left for their country. Everybody remembered where he came from. He came from Gaza, Jericho, Jerusalem, Nablus, or Irb [as heard] Praise be to God, everybody said: I will return to my homeland. Libya encouraged the Palestinians. Libya told them: We need you, Libya needs the Palestinians. However, if Libya kept the Palestinians and told them: Stay in Libya, that would mean that it deprives the Palestinian people of their right to return to their land and would participate in the implementation of the Zionist-imperialist plan that calls for the settlement of the Palestinian people in Arab countries and the world so as Palestine remains to the Israelis only.

Our Palestinian brothers moved and came to this point. Where are they going? They are returning to their homeland. Did you not say that our issue has been solved? The proof of this is that we have seen Rabin travelling from the Atlantic to the Gulf and being embraced by the Arab rulers. This means that there is no more enmity. They said that he was an enemy in the past, but he is not an enemy anymore. [Word indistinct] the Palestinian people said: We will go to our homeland.

When the Palestinian people arrived at al Sallum [Egyptian border post], they said to them: No, you cannot enter; you cannot go ahead; where are you going?

The Palestinians said: We are going to Gaza. They said to them: No, you cannot go.

I was amazed by that, and I am certain that President Husni Mubarak cannot prevent the Palestinian people from returning to Gaza through al Sallum. This is impossible.

President Husni Mubarak returned yesterday from the ceremony that solved your problem. How could you not be allowed to return now? Should they have told him not to allow you, he would tell them: No. Yesterday, I signed with you and you told me that the Palestinian people have been given the West Bank at least. Let them go back to the West Bank then.

Brothers: They want Palestine without the Palestinian people. The Palestinian people are 6 million according to statistics. It is according to these statistics: They are 5.6 million all over the world, including 1.75 million inside Palestine, taking into account those who were expelled in 1948 and 1967. Take 1.75 million out of 6 million. That leaves about 4 million outside Palestine-1948 and the West Bank. These must return. How could the Falasha return to Palestine? Who are the Falasha? An Ethiopian tribe has got the right to return and the Palestinian person who came out of Palestine in 1967, yesterday, is being prevented... [pauses] is staying here on the border in al Sallum and is being prevented from returning to the West Bank at least. Is this logical? [cheers]

America has given U.S. identity to 150,000 Palestinians, so that they do not return to Palestine, because the Israeli plan is to have the Palestinians dispersed throughout the world. Each country is being encouraged to give them nationality, consider them as its citizens and make them remain there. As for those who are staying in Arab countries, this does not mean that they are being given hospitality by the Arab countries, this reflects the Zionist plan that requires that Arab leaders to keep the Palestinians in their countries and prevent them from returning to Palestine. This is treason.

Do not discard the fact that someone tomorrow receives orders from Tel Aviv and Washington telling him to play host to the Palestinians who are leaving Libya. This will look like compassion, but it hides suffering. It would seem as if whoever offered hospitality to the Palestinians, who are leaving Libya, had done them a great favor by transferring them to his own country. In fact, this is the implementation of a Zionist plan. Any agent may be told in the future to take the Palestinians to his country in the Middle East or the Arab Maghreb. [passage omitted]

How can one play host to them? [Why do they not] return to Palestine? This is treason. Treason is when you prevent Palestinians from returning to Palestine. [passage omitted]

The Palestinians are prevented from entering the West Bank. Regarding the Caspian people, we are told that they left Palestine some 5,000 years ago and they took them back in an air bridge. The entire world took part in moving the Caspian people from Russia. Did you not see the Caspian people go in droves. From the Volga river they went to Palestine and said — we have the

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

right to return because we have been displaced for 5,000 years. Nobody knows what the religion of these Caspian people is nor their race, but the entire world got together and set up relay stations for them on the way back, in Hungary and Austria, to allow them to rest before they were transported by plane to Palestine.

The Caspian people come from the Volga, in Russia, and have the right to return, but the Palestinians do not have the right to return and then we hear absurd and unreasonable statements and the poor [Arab] nation is being laughed at. We hear the radio stations of the rulers and the hired mouthpieces say that Libya is expelling the Palestinians. Why do they not talk about the expulsion of the Palestinians by the Israelis? Not one of them said — poor Palestinian people, they have been expelled from their land, their homes and from Palestine. But now the traitors are weeping and saying — poor Palestinian people, they have been expelled from Libya. Is their land Libya or Palestine? Why did you not weep over them when they were displaced from 1948 to 1967? You the traitors and the agents, I will expose you before the Arab nation and before the peoples of the Arab nation.

I am not afraid of America, your master, nor of Tel Aviv which will dominate you. You the agents of Zionism, the despicable hired mouthpieces, the despicable people and the hirelings. They are saying that Libya is expelling the Palestinians and they are protesting, showing off and demonstrating pride. Why did they not show off when the Palestinians were expelled from Palestine by the Zionists? Who expelled the Palestinians? Zionism, America, and the Christian western states were the ones who expelled the Palestinian people not Libya. Libya played host to the Palestinians for decades. When you told us that the issue of the Palestinian people had been solved we believed and we sent the Palestinians back and helped them to return to their land. Did you not say that the Palestinian issue had been solved? Since the issue of the Palestinian people has not been solved, why recognize Israel, why open embassies, you traitors and agents? Why this mockery and why are you forsaking your rights without any counterpart?

This is unreasonable. How far can the cowards go in their cowardice and submission? How can the Jews take Palestine, the Caspian people take Palestine, the Falashas take Palestine, and the Indians tomorrow take Palestine, while the Palestinian people are prevented from returning. I am certain that President Husni Mubarak is not aware of this story. First of all, he was in America and he returned yesterday. He had a solid argument on his return; he was returning from America after signing the solution to the problem of the Palestinian people. Now the Palestinian people are waiting at the gate of al-Sallum. O brother Husni Mubarak. Open the gate to them so that they can go back to their land for which you signed yesterday to say that their issue has been solved. [revolutionary slogans heard]

Listen brothers: If the Israelis, if Abu-'Ammar or Rabin or the U.S. President protested to President Husni Mubarak and told him — do not allow the Palestinians to return — he could reply and poke them in the eyes to say — yesterday you brought me all the way to America, what for? It is 12,000 miles away, why? Did you not say that you wanted me to witness the solution to the issue of the West Bank at least? How can you bring me all the way to America to tell me to come and sign and then I find the Palestinian people on the Egyptian borders and you tell me not to let them enter?

Mubarak has a strong argument against them; I am certain of this. I do not need to say nor am I calling on people to say that we must put pressure on Egypt and brother President Husni Mubarak and that we must seek the mediation of God knows who in order to get him to allow the Palestinians to return, because they cannot be left in tents, in the open air and in this arid desert. These are children and women who want to return to their land, but who have found the door closed in their face. I am not asking for any pressures to be put on Egypt or President Husni Mubarak so that he allows the Palestinians to cross the border post of al-Sallum, because this cannot be. I am certain that neither Egypt as a whole nor President Husni Mubarak will prevent the Palestinians from returning — at least because as far as you are concerned and as far as the Palestinians, the Libyan people, the Egyptian people, the Arab peoples, and the peoples of the world are concerned — he came back from America yesterday after signing that the problem of the West Bank has been solved.

That was considered a historic day and the U.S. President will benefit from this to win the elections, [claiming] he has solved the problem of the West Bank. Unless there is a conspiracy against the Palestinian people and unless there is truth in the words that Rabin said to Yasir 'Arafat when he told him — you Yasir 'Arafat, I have started having doubts whether you could be Jewish because you offered a service [4-second break in transmission]. There are Jews who have not offered as many services as you have. The concessions you made to us make me doubt whether you could be Jewish. He said this publicly. I did not say it, it was Rabin. Have a look at his statement. He said it seriously.

However, I regard the president... [pause] Abu-'Ammar as the president of the Palestinian people and I tell him — this is your people and now that you are inside your country, take your people. Or do you want your people

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

to be outside while you are inside? In other words, does Abu-'Ammar want to stay inside leading a number of Palestinians, while his people remain outside? Is it reasonable? [revolutionary slogans, applause]

Let me tell you this so that nobody trades in the Palestinian people: I am not trading in the Palestinians, like the Arab rulers who have turned the Palestinian people and even their own peoples into herds of lambs in which they trade and sell to others. I do not belong to that category; I am a revolutionary. Maybe if I were a ruler I could trade in human beings and turn people into a herd of lambs. Maybe if I were trading in the Palestinians like those trading in the Palestinian cause, I could tell the Palestinians — come on, stay in Libya, and the people would applaud and say — what generosity and what kindness. But this is a representation of the Zionist plan, a setback, and a retreat. We must believe in going forward, to Palestine, whether through peace or war.

Now if we believe that the issue has been solved, we can return to our country carrying olive branches, without weapons. Brothers, we are forced to enter either with guns or with olive branches. It is they who determine what we will be carrying when we enter. If they prevent us, we will enter with guns and if they allow us we will enter with olive branches.

I invite the 300,000 Palestinians in Syria [to return to Palestine] [crowd chants slogans of support to al-Qadhdhafi who asks them to stop] There are 300,000 Palestinians who have been living in camps in Syria since the disasters of 1948, 1967, and 1973, and another 300,000 Palestinians in Lebanon. At one time, they were forced to eat cats and dogs when Palestinians fought Palestinians in Lebanon. You all know this. Hundreds of thousands in Syria and Lebanon have been living in camps since 1948 and 1967. We appeal to them to march on the West Bank at least, on Palestine, carrying olive branches. There is no need for weapons; let them enter their land, return to their land, now that their problem has been resolved, now that the Arabs have recognized Israel and there is no longer a problem between them. [slogans chanted: "More defiance O you the unique hawk."]

I know that now there are Syrians, aware people, dynamic Palestinian forces in Syria and Lebanon who will work to make the Palestinian masses in Syria and Lebanon move peacefully with olive branches towards Palestine, so that they may be persuaded of the Oslo lie and that of Madrid, Taba, and the White House. They will be able to be convinced of the lie.

If the problem of the Palestinian people has been resolved, why then should the Palestinian people remain in camps, why should they remain in camps in Syria, Lebanon, and in Jordan. There are 1.75 million Palestinians in Jordan. Look at the Zionist scheme: They said that 1.75 million Palestinians would settle in Jordan and become Jordanian citizens; 300,000 would settle in Syria and remain refugees until doomsday; 300,000 would remain in Lebanon where they would settle until doomsday; 4,000 in Algeria. Look at how they are distributing you. Look at how the Zionist plan is dispersing the Palestinian people: 4,000 would live in Algeria; 2,000 in Bahrain; 40,000 in Egypt; 30,000 in Iraq; 1.75 million in Jordan; 300,000 in Lebanon; 30,000 in Libya; 6,000 in the donkey stables, Oman; 30,000 in Qatar; 100,000 in Saudi Arabia; 300,000 in Syria; 47,000 in the UAE; 150,000 would be granted American citizenship; and 1.75 million dispersed in other European and Asian countries. The Palestinian people count 5.6 million persons who are thus dispersed.

All the Palestinian people are dispersed like that. Only 1.75 million Palestinians are inside Palestine, between the West Bank and the Palestinian land that was occupied in 1948. This is found in writing. There are 600,000 in Gaza, but the UNRWA [United Nations Relief and Work Agency] registered only 500,000 in Gaza. There are 900,000 in the West Bank and the UNRWA registered only 500,000 in the West Bank. See the Zionist plan: Out of 6 million only 1.75 million live inside Palestine under Israeli control. Do you really believe they will really set up a Palestinian state? Everyday Rabin says: It is not possible to allow the setting up of a Palestinian people.

All the clamor you hear in the White House is so that the Palestinians live as subjects under the Israeli state and control, because Israel is moving forward, to Cairo, Baghdad, Damascus, Mecca, and the Gulf, so as to take the oil. The Israelis are moving forward and behind them are NATO and the United States. [applause]

The Libyan people may decide that the Palestinians leave Libya. The Palestinian teacher goes to the West Bank and Palestine and teaches the sons of Palestine and his full salary will go to him from Libya as if he were in Libya. The general practitioner will go to the West Bank and Palestine and will give free medical care to the Palestinian people and his salary will go to him from Libya as if he were in Libya and was giving medical care to the Libyans. [applause]

It is possible that the salaries you have in Libya will continue while you are in Palestine; however, it is not possible for us to participate in the dispersion of the Palestinian people and deprive them of the right to return. [applause] If they prevent you from returning, this is very useful to the Palestinian issue. If the number

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

of tents increases and thousands of people get massed and we Palestinians get massed in the open air and they deprive us of the right to return, this exposes all the international deceit and contributes to highlight the Palestinian issue in front of the world. All the world will support the Palestinian people and the whole world will know that all that is taking place is a deception, a treason and lies, and an imposition of Israeli control over the Arab homeland.

I would like all the Arab countries to prevent Palestinians from returning and for Palestinians to pile up on the border — the border between Syria and Palestine, Syria, Lebanon and Palestine, Libya and Egypt, the border between Sudan and Egypt and the border between Jordan and Palestine. That is for the all the Palestinians to march [words indistinct] They must move in the right direction.

If you are prevented from entering Egypt, your number rises in this desert and we get more tents, I will consider that — although there will be suffering in it — an international strategic gain for the Palestinian issue. This will demonstrate that the issue of the Palestinian people has not been settled and all that you have heard is humbug, blasphemy, falsification, and treason. [passage omitted]

The Palestinian people's issue will not be settled as long as there are those who want to rob them, want to wash their hands of the Palestinian people and bury them, and then say that the issue has been settled. How has it been settled? Here are the Palestinian people in tents [words indistinct] What is better? Is it better for us... [pauses] I might even sit down [i'tisam] with you. I will stay in these tents and I will move from one tent to another, share my tent with you, and live with you. [chanting]

If the gateway in front of you remains closed and you become settled in this desert, we will build schools and hospitals and we will have supplies. We will stay in these tents. We will drink, eat, learn. and get treated. We will bring people here to witness our tragedy and issue. We will tell them these are the people whose issue, they say, has been settled and their land returned to them. Here they are in tents and being prevented from returning. [passage omitted]

It will be very useful for the Palestinian issue if they prevent you from crossing the gateway that is in front of you. By God, this will benefit the Palestinian issue more so than the defeated Arab armies, defeated Arab rulers, and the defeated nation. This is exposure. This is a strategic service to the Palestinian issue.

We will stay in these tents, pile up in thousands in these tents, and even those who are in Syria, Lebanon, and other Arab countries should come here. We will show them that the Palestinian people are in the desert.

Tell us where is Madrid? Where is Oslo? Where is Taba? Where is the White House? Where is all the humbug you have been saying? Where are the deceit and lies? The Palestinian people struggled in tents and misery. We will return to our land that you have told us has been liberated. [chants]

If they are saying that Libya opposes a peaceful settlement, it has now become clear that the opposite is true. Libya is the state that has told you that it has believed the issue has been settled, that those who go now are true and serious and that those people's cause has been settled and let them return to their country. [passage omitted]

Now Libya believes that the problem has been resolved. They have said that Libya had said no, this is a lie. Well, no, now we believe that the problem of the Palestinian people has been resolved, that now it has a homeland, and we have invited it to return to its homeland. Our aim is to see, to test them: If you return to your homeland, and all Palestinians in Syria, Lebanon, and the Arab countries I have mentioned such as Jordan, which is holding 2 million Palestinians against their will on the orders of Zionism and imperialism which prevents them from returning to Palestine — if these millions, these 6 million Palestinians return to Palestine, or 5 or 4 million return to Palestine, then 50 percent of the question will have been resolved, indeed; the return of the Palestinian people to their homeland. The other 50 percent will be resolved from inside later on, like the case of South Africa, or in any other manner. [passage omitted]

If the question has really been resolved, then welcome! But if it has not, then anger will explode once again and will burn everything near and far, both Arabs and Zionists. In such a case, they will all be equal.

As a contribution to the peace program they are talking about in Palestine, Libya, as I said to you, will be paying salaries to these doctors, teachers, and those who will be serving their kinfolk in the West Bank and Palestine. Libya will be paying their salaries as if they were still in Libya. We believe that the question has been resolved; we are the first state to believe that the question has been resolved and that the Palestinian people are no longer refugees and have invited to return to their country. Those who have prevented the Palestinian people from returning are the ones who do not believe that the question has been resolved. They say that the question has been resolved, but they do not believe this, and therefore, they prevent the Palestinian people from returning, because they know that the Palestinian people have no land. When they goes there, they will find an

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

Israeli, a Falasha, a Jew from central Europe in front of it. [passage omitted]

Let the hired outlets shut up, those manipulated by the Israeli and American ambassadors in Arab countries; let them shut up, who have been saying that Libya has been expelling the Palestinians. Why did not you protest when Zionism expelled the Palestinian people from Palestine and from the West Bank? Why do you not protest against Zionism that expelled the Palestinian people? We played host to the Palestinian people; we defended them and paid a price for their sake, but it is you who have said that the Palestinian question has been resolved; it is you who have recognized Israel, embraced Rabin, opened embassies for the Israelis everywhere; it is you who have told the Palestinian people that the question has been resolved. We have believed you and the Palestinian people returning, they have believed you and are returning.

Standing here in this place will expose everything. We, the Palestinian people, will return through peace or war. It will be better that they let us return without the force of arms. Should we return with the force of arms, then we will cross the borders, break chains, and consider everything is permissible on our way until we reach Tel Aviv. [passage omitted]

We hold responsible those Arab rulers who recognized Israel, exchanged embassies with it, supplied it with gas, oil and trade and put an end to their boycott of it. Why do you think we hold them responsible? Is it not for the Palestinian people whose problem you said has been solved? So, (?let us raise our voices) in this desert, stand together [word indistinct] and ask: Why have you recognized Israel? Your answer is: Because the problem has been settled.

We are the people who have this problem. Are you talking about an imaginary people or the Palestinian people? Should the problem be that of the Palestinian people? The Palestinian people are in tents.

Brothers: The Arab nation is now in its worst state. It is totally submitted to the Zionist-imperialist scheme. A defeated nation and the victor is trying to impose its conditions upon it. This is not peace, this is a shameful surrender. A very shameful surrender for the Arabs. This nation must be rehabilitated. It should give millions of victims until it is rehabilitated and so that it becomes respected by America, Zionism, and the world. This nation needs to go fighting again. [passage omitted]

I will not betray you, I tell you the truth: only be ready. These people do not want us. They do not want us to rest or get liberated or get united. They said to us: When you recognize Israel, we will allow Arab unity. Egypt has recognized Israel, Jordan has recognized it, Palestine has recognized it, so allow them to unite. Let us see Jordan and Egypt set up a union. This is impossible. After we recognized it, they penetrated more. Did you hear of their crossing of the Jordan river the day before yesterday? They crossed the Jordan border and they told King Husayn: To hell with you. They told him: Our border is not the West Bank, our border is the east bank. You heard that, but have you seen it?

Settlers, the Jewish settlers, manipulated by their government and America, crossed the Jordan river and the Jordanians told them: Brothers this is an invasion, how can you cross our border?

They said: This is not the government, not the army, it is the people. They asked: How come? Does the state have no control over its people? They said: No, the Israeli people see that their border is not the Jordan river. They see that their borders are beyond the Jordan river. They nearly reached the palace of King Husayn. They told him: Your palace is in Israeli territory. This is after he recognized, bowed down, and submitted himself. They said: To hell with you; it is not enough yet.

They said yesterday: When the war breaks out once again with Egypt, we will not stop at the Suez Canal, our target is Cairo. The chief of staff of the Israeli army said: Next time, we will not stop before reaching Cairo. The occupation of Cairo is necessary. Why this, after we have recognized you, lifted the boycott, opened everything to you, and let you cross the Suez Canal. They said: God will bring his blessings; all these things you offer do not prevent us from moving forward. Whether you recognize, crawl, or do anything, our Zionist plan continues between the Euphrates and the Nile, the fertile crescent and North Africa. This is a continuous plan and America and the West are behind it.

If the rulers prevent us, we the citizens, we will resist and get ready for resistance. Get trained on arms, cultivate the land, learn how to resist, be patient and get tough, get ready, there is no other way, they want to occupy our land. [slogans] [applause]

We have been demolishing the gates you are standing against and they have been built again. We demolish them and they are built again. We have been demolishing them for 27 years and yet they are built again. A nation is being wasted from our hands. O brothers, this way we will all become refugees. Not only the Palestinian people, but even the Libyan people will be expected to become refugees. NATO will get the gas from Libya by occupying it. The Gulf is already occupied and finished. Israel yesterday reached Oman in order to

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

complete the occupation. Its armies, aircraft, and warships are present there. A fifth American fleet has been formed in the Red Sea to occupy the Arab homeland. The Israelis are meant to be masters over the Arabs in the Middle East and the Americans to be masters over the world. We reject this. We refuse to have a master over us in our land. They want to be masters and make us slaves. God is victorious; we have to resist. It is not our choice, but they are imposing this on us. There is nothing before the Libyans except arms, austerity, improve your land, fortify the coastline, and expect NATO's attack at any time.

The American forces are training in Egypt on how to occupy Egypt. You must have heard of the maneuvers code named Bright Star. It means the American star shining over Egypt. This is what it means. The American army trains every year on how to occupy Egypt. We wish Egypt would remain free and fighting so that we can lean on it.

The Italians landed here in this place in which we are celebrating, on 4 October 1911 with the aim of cutting off supply routes between Egypt and Libya, to deny the Libyan people the assistance of its fraternal Egyptian people. If Egypt were to remain free and we were attacked by NATO, it would be all right for we have an Arab country next to us to supply us. The tragedy is that Egypt itself will be occupied. They have divided it into pieces. A Coptic state, an Islamic state, a Nubian state, and a desert state. They have divided it into four states. This is an existing plan. They have even defined the camps of the Israeli forces and the American forces. Every year they train on how to occupy Egypt. [passage omitted]

If this situation continues you all will be in refugee camps. The Egyptian people in camps and the Libyan people will also be in camps. This is the Zionist plan, the Zionist-Imperialist plan. We have nothing but to resist.

I call on the Palestinian people in Syria and Lebanon, in the first place, to march peacefully to Palestine. To believe that the settlement is true and come out of the miserable camps and head towards Palestine.

I salute the enlightened Palestinian masses in Libya, living in the land of revolution, the land of the popular authority for taking the initiative and marched from Libya through this gate heading for Palestine. You are the vanguard of the return of the Palestinian people. You are undertaking a great historic action, either it will help the Palestinian people to return or [words indistinct] and then we will have nothing before us except resistance and resistance until victory.

Palestinian Man on Hunger Strike at Border Post

LD0510112495 Tripoli JANA in Arabic 1043 GMT 5 Oct 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Amsa'd, 5 Oct — 'Umar Khadr Ibrahim, a Palestinian national, has announced that he is going on a hunger strike to stress the right of the Palestinian people to return to their country.

The Palestinian national has also appealed to the UNGA, the Red Crescent and the International Red Cross to intervene in order to ensure his return and that of the members of his family to Palestine and enable them to cross the imaginary border area between the Great Jamahiriyah and Egypt.

Islamic Affairs

Kashmiri Leader Addresses OIC Ministers Meeting

BK0410120995 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in Urdu 0200 GMT 4 Oct 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Mir Waiz Maulvi Omar Farooq, chairman of the All Parties Hurriyat Conference, has drawn the attention of the Muslim world to the continuing massacres and massive human rights violations by Indian troops in occupied Kashmir. Participating in the OIC [Organization of the Islamic Conference] ministerial meeting at UN Headquarters, he said the situation in occupied Kashmir poses a serious threat to peace and security in the region. The Hurriyat leader urged the OIC and the international community to explore ways and means to solve the Kashmir issue and to take more effective steps to put an end to the suffering of the Kashmiri people.

Immediately after the statement by the Hurriyat leader, OIC Chairman Senoussi of Morocco expressed full solidarity with the people of Jammu and Kashmir. He said that atrocities have continued there unabated.

Mir Waiz Omar Farooq addressed the OIC ministerial meeting on behalf of the Kashmiri representatives from Indian-occupied Kashmir and Azad Kashmir. Sardar Abdul Qayyum Khan, prime minister of Azad Jammu and Kashmir, and other prominent Kashmiri leaders accompanied him to the OIC meeting. He was invited to address the meeting based on a proposal by Pakistani Foreign Minister Sardar Asif Ahmad Ali.

OIC Secretary General Hamid Algabid has termed the persistent tension in occupied Kashmir a threat to peace and security in the region. Addressing the OIC foreign ministers meeting, he referred to the human rights violations by Indian troops in occupied Kashmir and urged the international community to make efforts to stop the human rights violations and resolve the

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

problem. Hamid Algabid also stressed the need for a peaceful solution to the Afghan problem and said that the solution lies essentially in the hands of the Afghan people themselves.

Political Islam Review: 'AQIDATI 26 Sep

NC0410115595

[FBIS Editorial Report] The following is a comprehensive review of all items in the 26 September edition of the Arabic language newspaper 'AQIDATI that pertain to political Islamic issues.

CONTENTS:

1. Islamic Treatment of Prisoners Defended
2. Al-Ahzar Shaykh Comments on Islamic Awakening
3. Indian Scholar Interviewed
4. Western Conspiracy Seen in Bosnia

ISLAMIC TREATMENT OF PRISONERS DEFENDED

The issue's main story is a rejoinder to an article published in the 20 September issue of the newspaper AL-AHALI, mouthpiece of the National Progressive Unionist Grouping [NPUG], warning Egyptians not to involve religion in the controversy over Israel's killing of Egyptian POW's, because this might backfire on Egypt and Muslims in general. The AL-AHALI article—by Dr. Mahmud Khayyal, secretary of the Egyptian Enlightenment Society—recalls that the Prophet Muhammad ordered the execution of 400 Jews from the Banu-Qurayzah tribe after they surrendered to the Muslims in Medina.

'AQIDATI's response comes in a 4,000-word lead story on pages 1, 8, and 9. Under a black 3-column headline "A New Crime Against Islam," is a page-wide banner headline in red: "A Corrupt Writer Accuses the Prophet, May God's Prayers and Peace Be With Him, of Killing Prisoners of War!" Below that is a four-column headline in green: "Ulema: What Is Happening Is a Distortion of History...and Toadying to Zionism."

The article begins: "Writing in the name of enlightenment and freedom of opinion, a Marxist writer has perpetrated a new crime against Islam and the homeland. In an article published in a leftist newspaper he alleges that the Prophet, may God's prayers and peace with him, killed prisoners of war. The writer thus arrogates to Israel the right to do what it did—kill thousands of Egyptian POW's in the 1956 and 1967 wars."

The article cites responses by several Muslim scholars to refute Khayyal. Islamic thinker Dr. Muhammad 'Amarah said that the AL-AHALI writer is actually "exonerating the Zionists of the crime they committed" and is loyal to the "Zionists who founded the Marxist movement in Egypt."

He explains that Banu-Qurayzah, originally allies of the Prophet, betrayed him at a critical moment during the Battle of the Trench and sided with the enemy; therefore, they cannot be considered POW's, but enemies. This point is also made by Dr. 'Abd-al-Majid Matlub, professor of Islamic Shari'ah at 'Ayn Shams Law School.

Dr. Ahmad Kamal Abu-al-Majd, another Islamic intellectual, is quoted as saying: "Casting doubts on Islam's good treatment of prisoners of war is an exercise in confusion. It is not permissible to discuss this matter at all."

Professor of Islamic History Dr. Ahmad Shalabi says that in the early days of Islam Muslim warriors used to give food to their prisoners and go hungry themselves. He relates how Muhammad pardoned the grandees of Mecca after he conquered that city.

Shalabi says that the AL-AHALI writer "is a falsifier and a distorter of history who has intimate links with the Israeli enemy, just like the other traitors who live on Egyptian soil but are traitors to Egypt."

AL-AZHAR SHAYKH COMMENTS ON ISLAMIC AWAKENING

Under the headline: "The International Islamic Awakening and How To Develop It," the al-Azhar Shaykh, Grand Imam Jad al-Haqq 'Ali Jad al-Haqq, urges people to learn from history and calls for the uniting of Muslim ranks and hearts to strengthen the current Islamic awakening.

In an 800-word article on page 7, he says that even though the Muslims have expelled foreigners from their land, they have not yet wiped out the effects left by those foreigners. To enhance the Islamic awakening he advises slow and patient efforts and warns against haste.

"Destruction is easy, but building is hard. It needs strong foundations. Hasty action taken without proper preparation and an appropriate atmosphere might have dangerous consequences."

INDIAN SCHOLAR INTERVIEWED

On page 20 the paper publishes a 1,400-word interview with the chairman of the Indian Society of Ulema, Shaykh Abu-Bakr Ahmad. Abu-Bakr Ahmad says that the Indian Government gives Muslims the freedom to worship as they want but notes that they are troubled by Hindu fanatics. He explains the work of the Indian Society of Ulema, which consists of propagating Islamic

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

teachings and values. He says that some Hindus convert to Islam to escape class divisions and conflicts.

WESTERN CONSPIRACY SEEN IN BOSNIA

A 1,000-word report by Ashraf Abu-al-Hawl on page 21 describes events in Bosnia-Herzegovina as a "new conspiracy" against the Muslims. The report doubts that the Serbs have really withdrawn their heavy weapons from around Sarajevo and blames NATO for not continuing to bomb them until they did. He deplores the fact that the Western powers have pressured the Muslim-Croatian allied forces to stop their advance on the Serbian stronghold of Banja Luca and fears that the Bosnian-Croatian alliance will be dissolved. The writer says that the Western powers want to remain in control of the situation and are not pleased with recent Muslim victories.

Palestinian Affairs

DFLP's Hawatimah: 11 PLO Committee Members Reject Taba

JN0410183695 Damascus SANA in Arabic 1600 GMT 4 Oct 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Tunis, 4 Oct (SANA)—Nayif Hawatimah, secretary general of the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine, said that the Taba agreement was signed behind the back of the Palestinian people and the PLO institutions.

In a statement to the newspaper AL-SHURUQ today, Hawatimah added that Palestinian rejection of the agreements with Israel has gone beyond the popular level to include the majority of the PLO Executive Committee members.

He pointed out that nine members of this committee issued a joint statement expressing their categorical rejection of the Taba agreement. They are: Faruq Qaddumi, Sulayman al-Najjab, 'Abd-al- Rahim Malluh, Taysir Khalid, Mahmud Isma'il, 'Abdallah Hurani, Shafiq al-Hut, Mahmud Darwish, and Iliya Khuri.

Hawatimah said that at the PLO Executive Committee meeting recently held in Tunis to endorse this agreement, Dr. Samir Ghawshah and Jamal al-Surani rejected this agreement. This has raised to 11 the number of members rejecting this agreement. Only seven members endorsed the agreement, he added.

Hamas Representative Says Jihad To Continue

NC0410201295 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran in Arabic 1730 GMT 4 Oct 95

[Telephone interview with Hamas representative in Jordan Muhammad Nazzal by Jihad al-'Idan; place and date not given; from the "News and Reports" program—recorded]

[FBIS Translated Text] [al-'Idan] Muhammad Nazzal, the Zionists have proposed canceling the international resolutions on Jerusalem at the United Nations. What are the objectives and justifications given by the Zionists for this proposal?

[Nazzal] Everyone knows the Zionist enemy is trying in every possible way to evade the international resolutions issued on Jerusalem. This proposal is part of their attempts to distance the Security Council and the United Nations from the issue of Jerusalem and to obstruct the international resolutions regarding this holy city.

[Al-'Idan] Muhammad Nazzal, we would like to expand on this question. If the Zionists are toppling international resolutions that have international impact and guarantees, then how could they adhere to resolutions and pledges signed with the Palestinian self- rule authority?

[Nazzal] From our experience of over 40 years of Israeli occupation we believe the Zionist enemy does not care about the international resolutions. Regrettably, we have to say that it exploits U.S. support in particular, European in general, and international support on the whole to avoid complying with the resolutions of so-called international legitimacy. We can say that the Zionist enemy is above the resolutions of international legitimacy. We believe there can be no trust, even in these agreements the Zionist enemy signs. It is ready to overcome them or to ignore them completely if they go against its interests and against what it wants.

[Al-'Idan] Muhammad Nazzal, the Zionists today attacked a school in Hebron. AL-QUDS PRESS SERVICE announced that the Zionists have set up military bases in Kafr Qasim and taken numerous steps in this and other directions. What, in your opinion, are the reasons for this recent Zionist move?

[Nazzal] The Zionist enemy always tries to establish new facts on the ground that go against theoretical rules or the agreements. It has a project for Hebron, which it wants to keep Judaized and over which it wants to maintain Zionist-Israeli hegemony. Therefore these measures fall within this framework: entrenching occupation of the land and their sovereignty over it.

[Al-'Idan] Does the recent agreement between 'Arafat and the Zionists mean restricting jihad activities inside the occupied territories?

[Nazzal] We cannot ignore a particular fact—the major objective of these agreements is that they become obstacles before military and jihad activities. Jihad activities

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

have become a real and rooted fact for the Palestinian people and as long as Palestinian territory is occupied, these jihad activities will undoubtedly continue. Such agreements will not prevent the Palestinian people from continuing their struggle and jihad. True, those who are now performing acts of jihad are factions and a small group of the Palestinian people. But even if one faction or another stops doing these things, there are those among the Palestinian people who will continue such acts. We saw that when the PLO stopped its jihad activities, the Islamic movements and forces, such as Hamas, al-Jihad, and others, started theirs. Therefore, I say that the seeds for resisting the occupation are present in the core of the Palestinian people as a result of this oppressive and usurping occupation.

[Al-'Idan] We thank Muhammad Nazzal, Hamas representative in Jordan. Thank you.

[Nazzal] May God be with you.

West Bank Poll Finds Plurality Supports Taba

TA0210094195 Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT in Hebrew 2 Oct 95 p 3

[Report by Roni Shaqed]

[FBIS Translated Text] Some 43.6 percent of the Palestinian residents of the West Bank and East Jerusalem support the Taba agreement; 29 percent oppose it; and 24.8 percent have no opinion on the matter. These are the findings of a public opinion poll conducted by the Bayt Sahur polling institute.

The poll further found that:

— 42 percent oppose terror acts, while 39 percent support them.
— 55 percent stated they will take part in the elections.
— 36 percent favor amending the Palestinian Covenant, while 34 percent are against changing it.
— 64 percent do not believe that Israel seriously intends to implement the agreement, while 20 percent believe that it does.
— Regarding the nature of the Palestinian state, 72 percent favor the establishment of a democratic republic; 24 percent would rather have an Islamic state; and 4 percent want a monarchy.

The poll was conducted 28 and 29 September on a representative sample of 500 people.

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

Algeria

Dembri Comments on Presidential Elections, NPT

BR0310122995 Madrid EL PAIS in Spanish 1 Oct 95 p 7

[Interview with Foreign Minister Mohamed Salah Dembri by Ignacio Cembrero in New York; date not given: "Elections Will Be Free and Democratic" — first paragraph is EL PAIS introduction]

[FBIS Translated Text] Despite the tide of violence that is sweeping across his country and their boycott by the leading political forces, Algerian Foreign Minister Mohamed Salah Dembri believes that the presidential elections that have been called by Algerian head of state General Liamine Zeroual will be "free and democratic," and these aims will be easier to achieve when, he says, "terrorist activity is on the wane." Dembri is in New York to attend the UN General Assembly.

[Cembrero] The three main political parties in Algeria, which represent 70 percent of the electorate, are going to boycott the elections of 16 November. So what is the point of holding them?

[Dembri] The political parties will not play a major role in these elections. They can put forward candidates, but other people are standing without any party backing. Therefore you cannot place too much importance on the positions of the parties. To date, 34 people have said that they intend standing, and I believe that more than 20 of them meet the requirements.

[Cembrero] However many candidates there are, we all know who will win in advance: General Zeroual.

[Dembri] Do not prejudge popular sovereignty. There are other prestigious candidates. The elections will be free, and so that nobody can have any doubts about it, they will be held under the supervision of observers from the United Nations, the Arab League, and the Organization for African Unity.

[Cembrero] Perhaps your government is doing what it can to ensure free elections, but do you not think that in some regions of the country the Islamists could take control of the vote?

[Dembri] We will see. There are almost daily popular demonstrations against the terrorists and in favor of the elections. The foreign press has stated that terrorist activity has increased since the presidential elections were called, but that is not true. When you look back to the same time last year you can see that violence is on the wane. The forces of public order have really clamped down on the terrorists.

[Cembrero] Is General Zeroual the Army's candidate?

[Dembri] That is what some commentators in the foreign press are claiming. Once again they are mistaken. Liamine Zeroual above all represents the Algerian citizen who is concerned by the underlying problems of his country and who is determined to resolve them.

[Cembrero] Will there be general and municipal elections after the presidential vote?

[Dembri] That is the logical and desirable course of events. When he made his proposal, Zeroual said that he was starting the whole process of electoral restoration [which was interrupted in 1991 — EL PAIS editor's note].

[Cembrero] After the elections will there be fresh dialogue with the Islamic Salvation Front which was broken off this summer?

[Dembri] The authorities in my country are permanently open to dialogue with all those who respect pluralist democracy and the Algerian Constitution.

[Cembrero] What did [Spanish Foreign Minister] Javier Solana, as the president in office of the EU Council of Ministers, ask you to do?

[Dembri] He asked us to find a formula that could bring Libya to the Euro-Mediterranean conference in Barcelona in November.

[Cembrero] In the spring, Algeria unsuccessfully tried to get the Middle East declared a nuclear-free zone. Will you ask for that again in Barcelona?

[Dembri] All the Arab countries have signed the Nonproliferation Treaty. The other Mediterranean countries must do the same, including Israel. In Barcelona we will continue to push for the cause of banning weapons of mass destruction.

[Cembrero] How do you view the progress being made in drawing up the electoral lists in the Saharan autonomy elections?

[Dembri] Some parties (Morocco — EL PAIS editor's note) have attempted to disregard the original criteria for determining Saharan identity by introducing a population that has no links with the former Spanish colony. The attempt to register another 100,000 people looks like manipulation. They are trying to invent a new people.

Islamists Kill 3 Customs Officers Near Tlemcen

LD0410203095 Paris Radio France International in French 1830 GMT 4 Oct 95

[FBIS Translated Text] In Algeria, three customs officers had their throats cut near Tlemcen following a clash with armed Islamists.

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

Ex-Founder on FIS 'Deviation,' U.S. Talks

MM0210140995 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 29 Sep 95 p 16

[Interview with Ahmed Merani, a founding member of the FIS "who withdrew from it recently," by Nadya Mahdid in London; date not given]

[FBIS Translated Text] [Mahdid] What was the predominant belief within the ranks of the Islamic Salvation Front [FIS] which caused you to fail to convince them to change the FIS' attitude?

[Merani] We did not fail to convince them, but rather failed to persuade them to change the course of the party at the time. This is because we were did not need many proofs to convince them that what is good is well known and what is evil is also well known. I can say that most of the FIS founding members were convinced that the right course was not the course we were pursuing at the time and that what used to take place should not have taken place.

[Mahdid] Then why continuity in widening the scope of violence?

[Merani] Sometimes the course of history becomes stronger than the will of man. No willpower can put a stop to the course of history. The current of deviation is stronger and so deviation takes place.

[Mahdid] We know that it is man who influences and makes history. Was there any side within the FIS that supported and encouraged this deviation?

[Merani] There are certain circumstances that create events. We had emerged from intensive political repression, and the public did not know what it should do. One day Ali Belhaj wrote a statement, and one of the founding members asked him: Why are you writing this statement at a time when you know well that what is in it is not the truth? Belhaj replied: What can I do, as the public is asking for a reply?

The public's dominance of affairs became even more evident following the Front's success in the legislative elections, and it might be possible to relate some of the things that used to happen. For example, the Front's representatives drew up lists of persons who should be expelled from mosques and who should have no right to worship in them, just because they were not FIS supporters. Some strugglers were even preparing lists of persons to be tried by populace courts, while others prepared lists containing the names of the wealthy people whose property should be divided among the poor. All these actions were not carried out on the orders of the Front's leadership.

I cannot imagine the FIS issuing such orders. Abdelkader Hachani spoke about these actions by the strugglers following the arrest of the shaykhs, saying that "He cannot control such actions." This clearly shows that it was not the Front's leadership which was influencing events but rather it was the public which influenced the leadership, and it was the public that caused the Front to deviate from its course.

[Mahdid] You have visited the United States and Canada. What was the purpose of these visits and within what framework did they take place?

[Merani] They were courtesy visits, and during them I had some meetings with U.S. State Department responsible officials.

[Mahdid] Who were these personalities?

[Merani] They were the officials in charge of Middle Eastern affairs. They had incorrect views and wrong calculations. But their views later began to change from what they used to be.

[Mahdid] What were their views on the situation in Algeria?

[Merani] Their views were that they should have nothing to do with the situation in Algeria either locally or from a distance. They were waiting to see who would win in the end so t they could give him their support. The United States had previously expounded such an attitude through its secretary of state, Warren Christopher, during his visit to Europe, when he said: "The United States does not wish to commit the mistake it committed with respect to Iran: that is, to support a regime that had no future, and then see it collapse.

[Mahdid] What is new in their attitude toward the current events in Algeria?

[Merani] They have a feeling that the situation in Algeria will change, and so they are waiting to see what will happen.

[Mahdid] Some weeks ago it was reported in the press that former U.S. President Jimmy Carter might visit Algeria to mediate between the warring sides or to familiarize himself first-hand about the situation. How true are these reports?

[Merani] I do not think that Carter is a fool. Nor do I think that the Americans are fools either. They have their own calculations which serve their own interests. Algeria is not a "Haiti" nor a "Rwanda" nor any other country.

In Algeria, there is a people that is suffering, and it is not a two-sided conflict. Rather there are groups that

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

carry arms unlawfully. They assault anyone they find in their way without discrimination between a Jew, a Muslim, a policeman, a woman or an old person.

I believe that the Algerian problem was first and foremost a problem of crime and not a political problem. Even if the problem that led to the current situation was indeed a political one, the problem itself remains a problem of crime. So criminal acts, irrespective of who perpetrates them, should be condemned by world public opinion as well as by Algerian public opinion and all who can do so. This is the real situation. But everyone has forgotten about the issue of crime and is now concentrating on the question of elections and other matters.

The criminal acts should be stopped, then the political issues will remain and these could be resolved by negotiations through the holding of elections and inside parliament or similar institutions.

[Mahdid] What about your visit to Canada?

[Merani] We had meetings with most of the prominent political figures such as the speaker of the Canadian Senate and the Canadian deputy foreign minister and with various media channels.

[Mahdid] What was the Canadians' position toward the events in Algeria?

[Merani] It was one of greater understanding and greater support.

[Mahdid] What was the attitude of Canada and the United States toward the Algerian presidential elections?

[Merani] As I have said on the American Television Channel [as published], nobody can be for or against the elections. The elections are essential and there can be no way other than elections for settling the question of the struggle for power in Algeria. Only the way of monitoring the elections can be rejected or accepted, but not the elections themselves. Neither the United States nor anybody else has the right to support or not support the elections, because it is the people's right to have elections. What the American authorities said in this regard was that they hope that the elections will mark the beginning for a political solution.

Those who signed the Rome contract (which is known as the national covenant) in the name of their parties are trying to imply to the world that they represent everything. But this is a fallacy. If they really represent anything at all, why fear elections? If they really represent 88 percent of the votes, let them contest the elections and get into power and then do whatever they want.

In 1991, these parties represented something. But during the three-year ordeal the people have begun to realize the truth about these parties and that all they care about is posts and not the interests of the people, who have lost confidence in them. Now they are afraid to return to the people. A careful study of the Rome document readily makes us realize that it revolves around one basic issue, namely the postponement of the presidential elections. But until when? We do not know: Would it be for three years or would it be for four years? In their document the representatives of these parties proposed the formation of a transitional government. The thing one can understand from this is that they want to get into power without elections.

[Mahdid] How was your meeting with Anouar Haddam, representative of the FIS "parliamentary mission" in America?

[Merani] I would like to make one correction: He is not a FIS representative nor was he ever a responsible official in the Front. Nor was he one of the FIS's nominated candidates in the legislative elections of June 1991.

When the Front became embroiled in the present crisis and some of its leaders were arrested and others marginalized, Haddam seized the opportunity and nominated himself as a deputy for the constituency of Tlemcan. When he was in Algeria he was neither imprisoned nor faced any harassment. He left for the United States out of his own free volition, and began to exploit the name of the "Front's parliamentary mission" in order to be able to stay in the United States.

[Mahdid] How was your meeting with him?

[Merani] I did not want to see him. But I met him on an American television program called "Face to Face." So he talked, and we talked and we acquainted public opinion with some facts that were not known.

[Mahdid] How are your current relations with the Front's personalities?

[Merani] My relations with the Front's founders has been good from the time of the foundation of the Front until now. As for my relations with those of them who are now in prison, our relations were good prior to their arrest. We did not have any personal conflicts, only with respect to operational methods. Since their arrest, we have had no relations with them. For the psychological conditions of the prisoners affect their outlook and their relations, which would differ from what they would be when they are free.

[Mahdid] Do you support the return of the FIS to political life?

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

[Merani] If the founding members were to return to form [illegible] personally would not join them. I believe many [illegible] founding members] would not participate in this bitter experience. Many of them do not want to return to political action. But if some FIS personalities wish to establish a new party or restore the FIS to its past prestige, that is up to them.

[Mahdid] Would you nominate yourself in the forthcoming presidential elections?

[Merani] I have not thought much about this matter. For the responsibility is great, indeed, very great. Even if I were to think of doing so, I would be very hesitant to accept nomination for the elections. But if several quarters were to come and ask me and convince me to nominate myself, then it would be possible that I would not refuse to perform a good deed. But at a purely personal level these are matters that my soul rejects.

[Mahdid] What would be the quarters that could convince you to nominate yourself?

[Merani] I believe the time has passed, and the dossier of nominations will be closed within a week. For this reason, thanks be to God, nobody can convince mean so I do not need to shoulder this responsibility.

[Mahdid] Let us go back to the days when you were a member of the FIS leadership. Did the Front have any expansionist ambitions (outside the borders of Algeria) if it assumed power?

[Merani] There were no such ambitions. If such a thing was envisaged by one or two people, nobody has publicly stated this at any of the Front's meetings. Our vision was that we are an Algerian political party, trying to redress conditions and repair what was corrupted by the past regime.

[Mahdid] But does the movement of some of the leaders of the proscribed party to armed action and their appointment of themselves as emirs mean that this party's plan was, and perhaps still is, to establish a caliphate system based on amirs?

[Merani] The deviations of individuals should not be attributed to the establishment. I believe that it is human nature that if conditions permit you to become an emir you would remain an emir for life. I do not believe that the Algerian people would welcome the emergence of an emir or a caliph or the like.

[Mahdid] What in your opinion are the points of difference and agreement between the FIS and the armed groups movement?

[Merani] There is nothing that would bring the FIS and these groups close together. The Front was a political party operating in the field of politics. Its members and leaders preached in the mosques and delivered lectures to expound the Islamic faith. While the groups' actions are known: murder, arson, and massacre. There is no closeness at all between the two organizations. I believe that conditions developed which gave birth to these armed groups.

[Mahdid] You have know Abbasi Madani and Ali Belhaj at close hand. How would you describe the leadership personality of each of them?

[Merani] (After some brooding) It is not easy to describe this. For this reason I prefer not to answer this question. They are both in prison at present. We pray to God Almighty to grant them good health and we will leave it for history to pass its judgement on them.

Egypt

Mubarak Receives 'Arafat, Delegation in Cairo

NC0410213595 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio Network in Arabic 2100 GMT 4 Oct 95

[FBIS Translated Text] President Muhammad Husni Mubarak tonight received Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat, who arrived in Cairo earlier today. The meeting was attended by Palestinian Ambassador in Cairo Zuhdi al-Qidrah and the Palestinian president's adviser, Nabil Abu-Rudaynah.

The Palestine National Council [PNC] speaker, Salim al-Za'nun, sent a message to President Husni Mubarak in which he appealed to him to intervene, in view of his and Arab Egypt's pan-Arab and international status, to stop Libyan measures against Palestinian citizens. Salim al-Za'nun also sent messages to UN Secretary General Dr. Butrus-Ghali and Arab League Secretary General Dr. 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid asking them to intervene to stop the Libyan measures against the Palestinian people.

Musa on Palestinian Self-Rule Issues, U.S. Policy

NC0410221095 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2140 GMT 4 Oct 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, 4 Oct (MENA)—Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa has stated that the peace process will not succeed unless a Palestinian state is established in the West Bank and Gaza Strip and the Palestinian people can practice their right to self-determination. Otherwise, the whole peace process will be subjected to a huge setback, because the Palestinian state is the objective of peace.

In an interview to be published in AL-AHRAM tomorrow, Musa said that although the second phase agreement of Palestinian self-rule signed in Washington last

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

week was not complete, and although it had some shortcomings, the strategic line for this agreement is nothing more than to prepare and expand the territories under the control of the self-rule authorities and then to establish a Palestinian government as a legislative, executive, and judicial authority.

He added that the agreement will give the authorities the opportunity to impose taxes, issue passports, and sign international agreements, excluding political and defense issues. As part of this plan there will be a Palestinian security entity of over 25,000 Palestinian soldiers and a parliament.

'Amr Musa expressed his belief that the important point here is that statements by Israeli politicians no longer express annoyance at these words. They now discuss all these issues.

In his interview Musa said there is a radical change in U.S. foreign policy on many regions. There is a U.S. trend of interest toward solving internal economic problems, since they are priority issues. Now there is also a U.S. trend directed at the Pacific Ocean after its previous emphasis on the Atlantic.

He clarified that the United States now has various priorities. During the Cold War there were fears that the former Soviet Union would control the oil sources. But now no one can control them so attention given to this area has diminished.

'Amr Musa praised the Egyptian role in the new world order and said it is facing many challenges. This is why it must be developed. He confirmed that Egypt is the center of regional weight in the Middle East.

Musa on UN Membership, Palestinian Expulsion

NC0510092695 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio Network in Arabic 0500 GMT 5 Oct 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa last night returned to Cairo from New York where he attended UN General Assembly [UNGA] meetings. Upon arrival he said he would report to President Husni Mubarak on the results of his meetings in New York on the sidelines of the UNGA session. On the proposal that the membership of the UN Security Council be expanded, Musa said such an expansion must not favor only the developed countries, but must ensure balanced representation to give the Security Council needed credibility.

On his talks with a number of foreign ministers attending the UNGA session in New York, Musa noted that the meetings were held at the Arab, Islamic, and nonaligned levels. He said the meetings sought to discuss some Arab problems, including the Lockerbie crisis and ways to solve it and find a balance between the Security Council resolutions and the interests of the Libyan people. He said this also applies to the situation in Iraq.

On the expulsion of Palestinian workers from Libya and the contacts he held on this matter with the Libyan foreign minister, 'Amr Musa said he regrets that the problem has emerged at this particular time. He said many contacts are being held in an attempt to solve the problem. On Egypt's role in advancing the peace process, the foreign minister said he met twice with Syrian Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' in New York and discussed the Syrian track peace process. He noted that al-Shar' will meet today with the U.S. secretary of state to discuss the subject.

Commentary Examines Musa's UN Statement

NC0410171195 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio Network in Arabic 1240 GMT 4 Oct 95

[Commentary by 'Atif 'Umar: "The Taba Agreement Is an Indispensable Prelude to a Palestinian State"]

[FBIS Translated Text] In his statement-document to the United Nations, Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa announced that the recent Palestinian-Israeli agreement is, by any standard, a major positive step toward the existence of two entities, one Israeli and one Palestinian, alongside each other. This picture will be complete only when a Palestinian state is established on the entire territory of the West Bank and Gaza.

With this statement Egypt demonstrated that its call for peace, made by the Egyptian People's Assembly on 16 October 1973, sought to attain an Arab-Israeli agreement that would rid the region of the specter of war, a specter that had prevailed there for nearly 50 years. Egypt had a sincere wish for peace after fighting four wars to defend its own and other Arab rights. In those wars the Egyptians performed heroic feats and sacrifices that will be preserved by Arab history for thousands of years.

Egypt, which fought its most honorable military battles to restore Arab rights, also proclaimed the peace motto and fought its most honorable political battles against an opponent good at maneuvering and skilled in exploiting positions and contradictions. This opponent found enough contradictions on the international scene and in the Arab region when the Arab countries boycotted Egypt after it started its Camp David negotiations.

By placing all its experience and its regional and international political influence at the service of the Palestinian brothers, Egypt is showing that a secure peace can be achieved via negotiations, particularly in

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

view of the current favorable international and regional conditions.

We do not think the Palestinian people can endure the hardships they are suffering both inside the occupied territories and on the Arab land where they have been allowed to stay for many more years.

Hence, the sincere international and Arab efforts to find a solution to this chronic conflict through negotiations show a sound interpretation of the facts. Wayward or extremist attitudes would prolong current conditions for decades, leaving the Palestinian people only with some moral support and a little financial assistance in their attempt to restore their rights for which so many sacrifices have been made.

What is happening on the Egyptian-Libyan border reflects the acute contradictions to which the Palestinian cause is being subjected, contradictions the Israeli negotiator can skillfully exploit. While the hardliners shout and innocent Palestinian blood is shed in the occupied territories, Palestinian land is lost inch by inch. The goal is not achieved and the homeland or part of it is not restored.

As 'Amr Musa told the United Nations, the signing of the recent agreement is truly an important achievement toward solving the Palestinian problem. This will be clearly demonstrated when the second stage of the agreement is implemented and the Palestinian Authority extends its domain to the West Bank and moves firmly toward establishing a government with legislative, executive, and judicial powers that will form the nucleus of a new Palestinian state. Egypt, seeing the success of its experiment to achieve a real and effective peace in the Middle East, is looking forward to this Palestinian state and is making diplomatic efforts to buttress it.

The Taba agreement is a great achievement and a real success but Egypt and the Palestinian people realize that all this signifies nothing unless the agreement is immediately and faithfully implemented. This is the real challenge. When it is met, it will foil the efforts of the opponents of peace on both sides. It is the first indispensable step toward the regionwide peace to which all the region's nations aspire.

Columnist Denounces Deportation of Palestinians

NC0410192095 Cairo AL-WAFD in Arabic 28 Sep 95 p 1

[Article by Jamal Badawi: "The Victims of al-Qadhdhafi"]

[FBIS Translated Text] The scene at the Egyptian-Libyan border provokes pity, anger, and disgust. No sooner had the second agreement to expand Palestinian self-rule been signed than Colonel al-Qadhdhafi ordered the deportation of 30,000 Palestinians to the Egyptian border within 24 hours. Why were these Palestinians deported to the Egyptian border, while Libya shares borders with Tunisia, Algeria, Sudan, and Chad? The answer is because the crime resulting from the agreement, according to al-Qadhdhafi, was committed under Egypt's auspices so Egypt should receive its share of punishment and should shoulder the burden of the deportees. Egypt would have to consider whether to keep them or deport them to Gaza, where they would become a thorn in the side of Yasir 'Arafat and, consequently, destroy the self-rule agreement.

Al-Qadhdhafi should ask himself what will happen if the agreement collapses. Will a Palestinian state be established? Will thousands of Palestinian detainees be freed? Will the refugees be allowed to return to their usurped land? Or will the Israeli army occupy the land under its control before the agreement and then see this land become part of the Israeli state and its Arab citizens become Israeli citizens, as happened after the 1948 war?

I do not know what al-Qadhdhafi's answer to these logical questions might be. But I do know that any rational person who knows the Palestine tragedy will never accept the second option unless he wants to present the West Bank and Gaza Strip as a gift to Israel and encourage it to implement the dream of a greater Israel.

Any Arab who understands politics knows that the self-rule agreement does not meet the legitimate demands of the Palestinians. Nor does it achieve their just objectives. The Arab citizen is also aware that this agreement is a step on a long and thorny path, which will eventually end up in the establishment of the state of Palestine, whether or not Israel likes it. But al-Qadhdhafi rejects political solutions and prefers wars in accordance with the slogan: What was taken by force should be restored by force. He is here confining the word 'force' to military operations. Al-Qadhdhafi pretends to forget that the war is a means to achieve objectives. The war is not an objective in and of itself. The war is a tool to destroy the enemy's intransigence and force him to accept objectives that he used to reject before the war. The glorious October war has achieved its goal and enabled Egypt to regain its land that was occupied since June 1967. Syria is now pursuing the same path to regain the Golan.

If al-Qadhdhafi considers the war as a sacred objective, why did he not fight Israel and wipe it out? Why has he not fired a single bullet? The Mediterranean is wide open for him without impediment. If he cannot do that why is he imposing his custodianship on others, the

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

owners of the cause, who have been suffering killings, deportations, and detention? Why does he not respect their will, since they are the owners of the cause, have accepted the principle of holding negotiations with the Israelis, and have obtained what they could?

If the Libyan leader is opposed to the Palestinian leadership's negotiating line, what is the crime of those Palestinian workers who lived in Libya for years and participated in the building and construction process with their sweat and efforts? What crime have they committed to be treated so treacherously, carted off across the desert like a vanquished army, and handled like prisoners? They thought they were living in a fraternal country under the protection of a leader who raises the slogans of Arab unity and deafens the world with his shouts about his greater republic that has become a safe haven for every Arab seeking security, safety, and justice.

Al-Qadhdhafi can oppose the self-rule agreement as he wishes and he can use his radios to condemn Yasir 'Arafat night and day but shame on him for treating these oppressed people in such a vile manner and deporting them within 24 hours. Al-Qadhdhafi has committed the sin that the Israeli rulers are ashamed to commit. His excuse is pressuring 'Arafat and proving that his efforts are doomed. But every rational person knows that the Palestinian, Egyptian, and Sudanese workers went to Libya to take part in the building and construction process, not to participate in political games. They have nothing to do with the conflicts that emerge between al-Qadhdhafi and the other regimes. But al-Qadhdhafi did not hesitate to involve them in his battles and to make them a human shield to receive all the blows while he remains safe in his place.

The expulsion of the Arab workers from Libya is a barbaric act that is not commensurate with human values or Arab ethics, which are known for their gallantry, honor, and generosity. And this barbaric act is not commensurate with the resounding slogans raised by al-Qadhdhafi through his radios. All these slogans fall fast at the first practical test, revealing their deception and misguidance.

Interior Ministry Official Views Elections

NC0410162795 Cairo MENA in Arabic
1515 GMT 4 Oct 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, 4 Oct (MENA)—The Interior Ministry and its employees have completed the final preparations for the People's Assembly elections. The process of reviewing the voter lists has been finalized by striking off 760,000 citizens who are dead or whose names were repeated more than once or who simply do not exist.

Major General Muhammad Budayr al-Minshawi, the assistant interior minister who will be supervising the election process, made this statement. He said that Interior Minister Hasan al-Alfi issued instructions to the security men monitoring the elections to remain neutral during the election process, which is supposed to be held in 422 constituencies, in each of which two members will be elected, at least one of them a laborer or farmer.

He said the security men's responsibility is restricted to ensuring no one interferes with the performance of the nongovernmental election committees and the vote-counting processes. The result will be announced after the elections, before the candidates or their representatives.

Maj. Gen. al-Minshawi pointed out that the republican decree calling on citizens to elect their candidates is expected to be announced in the middle of October.

Al-Azhar Shaykh Meets Archbishop of Canterbury

NC0410142495 Cairo MENA in Arabic
1140 GMT 4 Oct 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, 4 Oct (MENA)—Grand Imam of al-Azhar Shaykh Jad-al-Haq 'Ali Jad-al-Haq received today Archbishop of Canterbury George Leonard Carey, who is currently visiting Cairo.

During the meeting, Shaykh Jad-al-Haq reviewed al-Azhar's role and mission spanning 1,000 years, making it the oldest university in the world. He stressed there is scientific cooperation between al-Azhar and several universities, including European and U.S. universities, in addition to its cooperation with Arab and Islamic countries. He said this cooperation includes higher studies and the exchange of professors and scientific experts. He affirmed that al-Azhar is a spiritual refuge for all Arab and Islamic cultural and religious establishments but does not intervene in the affairs of these universities or Islamic countries. He explained that in addition to religious schools, al-Azhar has scientific schools which teach modern sciences.

Shaykh Jad-al-Haq said Islam respects and recognizes the other divine religions—Judaism and Christianity. Islam views other religions that worship idols and animals as just another form of human conduct. He underlined the importance of cooperation among the divine religions for the service of mankind. He criticized the Western societies' stance on the slaughter of Muslims in Bosnia-Herzegovina and their silence on this conspiracy. He noted that Muslim societies around the world

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

ensure a dignified life and provide security for members of other religions and for European and foreign minorities living in Islamic countries. He noted that Islam calls for peace and peaceful coexistence between Muslims and non-Muslims, especially the people of the book [Bible].

The archbishop of Canterbury confirmed that the government and church of Britain has adopted a clear stand in denouncing the massacring of Muslims in Bosnia-Herzegovina. He said part of the reason for these battles is racial and the other part is religious. He indicated that many facts about this crisis have been lost in the mayhem of the battle. He expressed hope for more cooperation between Islam and Christianity so that peace and tranquility will prevail among mankind. He explained that one of the tasks of the Anglican church is to cooperate with the Islamic leaders to serve mankind and establish peace in the world.

At the end of the meeting, the of al-Azhar shaykh gave the archbishop a copy of an English interpretation of the Koran.

'Terrorist' Killed During Unsuccessful Robbery

NC0410195395 Cairo MENA in Arabic
1902 GMT 4 Oct 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, 4 Oct (MENA)—A leading terrorist was killed and another was wounded during an attempted armed robbery of a bank in Qina Governorate, Upper Egypt, today.

An official Interior Ministry source said tonight that the two terrorists tried to rob a bank in the village of Abu Shushah in Qina's Farshut District. Policemen staging an ambush at the scene exchanged fire with them, killing Ahmad Khalid 'Abdallah and wounding his accomplice, who fled into the plantations. The security forces have mounted a search for him.

The Interior Ministry source said the dead terrorist used several aliases. He was born in Suhaj in 1970 and was expelled from Asyut University's Law School. He was considered a prominent figure in the Islamic Group's military wing in Upper Egypt and was wanted in connection with numerous cases of violence and terrorism.

Libya

Foreign Secretary Addresses UN General Assembly

LD0510111095 Tripoli JANA in Arabic
1815 GMT 4 Oct 95

[FBIS Translated Text] New York, 4 Oct — The brother secretary of the General People's Committee for Foreign Liaison and International Cooperation ['Umar al-Muntasir] has stressed that the obstinacy of the Western states concerned with the Lockerbie issue regarding the international initiatives put forward to resolve it demonstrates clearly the extent of these states' arrogance and their rejection of the will of the international community, as reflected by the resolutions passed on that issue by international and regional organizations notably the Arab League, the OAU, the Organization of Islamic Conference, the Nonaligned Movement, as well as some permanent and non-permanent members of the UN Security Council which supported the Great Jamahariyah's stance vis-a-vis the issue.

In the Great Jamahariyah's address to the 50th session of the UN General Assembly yesterday, he said that numerous evidence and testimonies over the past few years has proven the innocence of the Libyans accused over the issue. He noted what the Palestinian citizen, Yusuf Sha'ban, stated to Lebanese courts, statements made by the director of a Swiss electronics firm and the information published in the book, "Following the Trail of the Octopus," which pointed accusing fingers at other parties, in addition to what was confirmed by the film "The Maltese Double-Cross" and articles published recently in the English daily THE GUARDIAN, many books published on the issue, and facts published in numerous newspapers in many parts of the world which confirmed the innocence of suspected Libyans.

The brother secretary of the General People's Committee for Foreign Liaison and International Cooperation said before the UN General Assembly that all this evidence confirmed that the Western states concerned with the [Lockerbie] issue did not want to expose the real plotters in the so-called Lockerbie incident, stressing that implicating Libya in the issue was a deliberate act aimed at achieving specific objectives ... Otherwise why this unjustifiable obstinacy, particularly since the Great Jamahariyah's stance enjoyed the support of two thirds of the members of the United Nations, as was demonstrated in the resolutions passed by international and regional organizations?

The brother secretary said that the people of the Great Jamahariyah have been subjected to terrorism represented in the treacherous barbaric U.S.-Atlantic failed aggression in April 1986, using hundreds of planes against towns in the Great Jamahariyah which led to the death of innocent children, women, and old people while they were asleep, and by the deliberate downing of the Libyan Arab airliner in 1973 by the Israeli enemy's planes which led to the death of all its 108 passengers of different nationalities, and the ban on [the import] of spare parts for Libyan aircraft.

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

The brother secretary called on the UN General Assembly to intervene and act in accordance with the authority given to it by the UN Charter, on the basis of Chapter Six of the charter, by urging the Security Council to reconsider its resolutions and lift the unjust measures on the Great Jamahariyah.

The brother secretary stressed that resorting to the imposition of sanctions on states was not an appropriate way to resolve differences among them, pointing out that the unjustified and unjust measures to which the Libyan Arab people have been subjected has hindered development plans. He stressed that the negative effects of these measures have extended to all the countries neighboring Libya.

In his address before the UN General Assembly, the brother secretary of the General People's Committee for Foreign Liaison and International Cooperation called for establishing a world that enjoys peace. In this context, he stressed the need for a just solution to the Palestine issue.

He said that it is unacceptable that the Palestinian people should continue to be evicted from their land, and for those who had stayed at their homes to be punished. He called on the UN General Assembly to take firm measures to confront Israeli practices against the Palestinian people and in other parts of occupied Arab territories; the Golan and southern Lebanon.

He stressed that the Israelis do not want a just peace. This was made evident by their hostile stances and practices which consolidated their occupation of Arab territories, in addition to their stockpiling of weapons, including weapons of mass-destruction which threaten all the states in the region.

The brother secretary called for getting rid of weapons of mass-destruction, stressing that the possession of nuclear weapons by some states threatens world peace and security. He demanded that the nuclear states should be committed to a set schedule to reach the objective of completely destroying nuclear weapons, to speed up concluding a treaty on a total ban on nuclear tests and the signing of a treaty by the nuclear states which includes the security and safety of non-nuclear states.

The brother secretary stressed that the possession by Israel of terrifying nuclear capabilities of over 200 nuclear warheads and nuclear installations which are not subject to international scrutiny constitutes a threat to the security and peace of the region's peoples. He called on the General Assembly not to keep quiet about that dangerous situation.

The brother secretary of the General People's Committee for Foreign Liaison and International Cooperation called for the implementation of the resolutions passed by international conferences concerning economic and social revival in developing countries and the commitment made by the states participating in the UN Conference on Environment and Development by urgently dealing with the external causes of the economic decline in developing countries.

He called for the need to confront the malpractices in international economic relations represented in the imposition of unjust measures on [some] states, such as freezing assets, seizing property and banning spare parts, which are being applied by advanced states against developing states, stressing that these measures not only hinder development in developing countries but violate the UN Charter and the resolutions of the [UN] General Assembly. He called for establishing an international order of economic relations based on justice and fairness.

The brother secretary said that the Great Jamahariyah supports the call for strengthening the authority of the General Assembly, which should include the General Assembly assuming responsibility for issues of peace and security in the world in accordance with the stipulations of the [UN] charter.

He added that the Great Jamahariyah reaffirms that the question of reforming the Security Council and expanding its membership, which must be a part of a comprehensive and integrated process of reform based on the principles of equality of sovereignty among states and fair geographical distribution in a way that would give democratic attributes to the proceedings followed in the Security Council.

He added that Libya was among the first to call for the abolition of the elements impeding the Security Council's work, led by the veto prerogative. After 20 years, that call is gaining increasing support from many states. The brother secretary stressed the Great Jamahariyah's role in stabilizing and establishing security and peace in the region and in the world. He pointed out its efforts in building the Arab Maghreb Union, bolstering cooperation in the Mediterranean region, eliminating causes of tension in the region by lobbying for the closure of all military bases in the Mediterranean and the withdrawal of foreign military fleets from its waters in order to establish peace and security in that vital region of the world.

He pointed out the Great Jamahariyah's efforts to defend the aspirations of the peoples seeking political and economic freedom and firmly entrench the principles of justice and fairness in international relations, and the Great Jamahariyah's effective contribution toward resolving many regional disputes by peaceful means,

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

which have gained it the trust of the conglomerate of African states and their unanimous nomination of it for the membership of the Security Council. Many of the world's states have supported and backed the nomination due to the international standing of the Great Jamahariyah in supporting and stabilizing world peace and security.

The brother secretary of the General People's Committee for Foreign Liaison and International Cooperation concluded the Great Jamahariyah's address to the 50th session of the UN General Assembly by calling for serious efforts to establish the edifice of a new world order based on the common aspirations of all the states, in which full equality would be achieved, and which would secure free political, economic, and social options for all the peoples, protect and promote human rights, provide security and stability, and apply all the noble concepts included in the UN Charter.

Tripoli To Provide Details of IRA Arms Shipments

MS0510073495 London THE GUARDIAN in English 5 Oct 95 p 2

[Report by Ian Black and Richard Norton-Taylor: "Libya to Expose IRA Shipments"]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Libya will provide the missing pieces this week in a jigsaw put together by British intelligence monitoring guns and explosives that Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi, secretly shipped to the IRA in the mid-1980s.

British officials say a satisfactory response to two final questions — following years of discrect exchanges — will be seen in London as a "confidence-building measure" on Libya's part, though it will not end the long-standing impasse over the Lockerbie affair.

But Whitehall also calculates that closing the IRA file — which would be readily acknowledged by Britain — might help coax Colonel al-Qadhdhafi into handing over the two Libyans indicted for the bombing of Pan Am flight 103 in December 1988. It is thought that a positive response from London would show that Britain had no hidden agenda against the Libyan leader.

According to senior Libyan sources, the two last British questions about the arms supplies — clarifications from earlier ones — will be answered in full this week in the hope that relations can then improve. The questions, in sealed envelopes, were handed to the office of the United Nations secretary general, Butrus Butrus-Ghali, passed to the Libyan mission at the UN in New York and sent on to Tripoli.

Whitehall is treading cautiously, anxious to respond to mounting and compelling evidence that in one specific field Libya has proved it has renounced terrorism, but it is still determined to resolve the Lockerbie case.

One British official said: "We have made it clear that if — and it is a big if — if the answers are satisfactory, and they will need to be assessed, then one could come close to the point of drawing a line under a particular episode in Anglo-Libyan relations.

"If it happened it would be a not insignificant confidence-building measure. But Lockerbie is non-negotiable and of fundamental importance to the relationship."

The process began in 1992 when the UN Security Council demanded Libya hand over two intelligence officers accused of blowing up the Pan Am airliner over Lockerbie killing 270 people. Libya was also required to take all steps it could to eliminate terrorism — a formula which included providing information on its arms supplies to the IRA.

Previous exchanges on the issue have been held in Geneva and Cairo, where a key mediating role has been played by the Egyptian government.

Libya began in June 1992 to provide British intelligence with the names of its IRA contacts and details of weapons shipments to Ireland between 1984 and 1987. It is believed the shipments totalled 140 tonnes, including 2 tonnes of Semtex, about 1,200 Kalashnikov rifles, Russian-made heavy machine guns and about a dozen SAM-7 surface to air missiles.

Libya's best offer on Lockerbie is that the two suspects could be handed over for trial in the Hague, where a Scottish judge could conduct the trial.

Morocco

Chinese Prime Minister Li Peng Continues Visit

Meets Counterpart, Signs Agreements

LD0410210995 Rabat Moroccan Kingdom Radio Network in Arabic 1300 GMT 4 Oct 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The Kingdom of Morocco and the PRC today signed two agreements for financial and cultural cooperation between the countries.

The signing of these two agreements came after a working session that was chaired by Abdellatif Filali, prime minister and minister of foreign affairs and cooperation, and Chinese Prime Minister Li Peng in the presence of both the Chinese and Moroccan delegations.

The first document covers financial cooperation. This agreement was signed by Mohamed Kabbaj, finance and

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

foreign investments minister, and Sang Heng, Chinese vice minister of foreign trade and economic cooperation. Under this agreement China will grant Morocco 5 million yuan.

The other agreement, which concerns cultural and scientific cooperation, was signed by Taieb Fassi Fehri, secretary of state for foreign affairs and cooperation, and Li Huaqiu, Chinese assistant minister for foreign affairs. The agreement covers cultural, scientific, educational, and research cooperation in the two countries as well as protecting antiquities.

Abdellatif Filali earlier received Li Peng at his office and held one-on-one talks with him.

Holds Working Meeting With King Hassan

LD0410192895 Rabat Moroccan Kingdom Radio Network in Arabic 1600 GMT 4 Oct 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] At noon today in Rabat, His Majesty King Hassan II, may God make him victorious, flanked by His Royal Highness [HRH] the Crown Prince Sidi Mohamed and HRH Moulay Rachid received Chinese Premier Li Peng, who was welcomed by Abdellatif Filali, the prime minister and minister of foreign affairs and cooperation, while a Royal Guard formation gave the salute.

His majesty held a working meeting with the Chinese premier, attended on the Moroccan side by Falali; Interior Minister Driss Basri; his majesty's adviser Driss Slaoui; Mohamed Kabbaj, minister of finance and foreign investments; Driss Alaoui M'Daghri, minister of communication and official government spokesman; Driss Jettou, minister of trade, industry, and handicrafts; and Taieb al-Fassi al- Fehri, the secretary of state at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. [passage omitted]

During this audience his majesty awarded the Chinese premier with the highest sash of the Alaoui medal.

Sudan

Government, Chad Sign Agreement To Mark Border

EA0410224695 Omdurman Republic of Sudan Radio Network in Arabic 1730 GMT 4 Oct 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Sudan and Chad yesterday at the council of ministers, signed the protocol of an agreement reached after their joint talks. The interior minister, staff Brigadier Bakri Hasan Salih, signed on behalf of Sudan while ambassador Mahamat Nouri, the minister for local administration [as heard], signed for Chad.

Both sides recognized the need to mark the border as proposed by the joint technical committee. They also agreed to establish a joint committee to protect the border marks between the two countries.

The interior minister of Sudan stressed that relations between Sudan and Chad were solid. He praised the good spirit that had characterized the talks between the two sides. His Excellency described the agreement as an unprecedented act which would guarantee the two peoples' interests and stability.

For his part, the Chadian minister for local administration praised the distinguished relations between the two countries. He said the demarcation of the border between the two countries was an important step for boosting relations. He stressed that the states of the African continent were capable of resolving their problems without foreign assistance.

Official Accepts Iraqi Invitation to Referendum

JN0410212795 Baghdad INA in Arabic 2010 GMT 4 Oct 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Khartoum, 4 Oct (INA) — 'Abd-al-Samad Hamid 'Ali, Iraqi ambassador in Khartoum, met with Muhammad al-Amin al-Basir, deputy chairman of the Sudanese Transitional National Assembly, in Khartoum today.

The ambassador handed al-Basir an invitation from 'Izzat Ibrahim, vice chairman of the Iraqi Revolution Command Council and chairman of the Higher Committee charged with supervising the general popular referendum, to observe this free democratic practice to be held on 15 October.

Al-Basir welcomed the invitation, indicating that he will head the delegation of the Sudanese Transitional National Assembly to Iraq to act as an observer in the referendum.

The Sudanese official stressed that the Iraqi leadership's decision to hold a referendum on the post of president shows that the leadership completely trusts its people, and also that the people trust their leadership.

Minister on UN Peace Seminar, Regional Ties

MM0510105895 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 4 Oct 95 p 5

[Interview with Ghazi Salah al-Din al-'Atabani, minister of state at the Foreign Ministry, by Imam Muhammad Imam in London; date not given]

[FBIS Translated Text] [Imam] Your participation in the proceedings of the Peace Culture seminar organized by UNESCO has prompted some questions regarding the fact that you accepted the intervention of an organization affiliated to the United Nations in arranging

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

a meeting bringing together all sides in the conflict in southern Sudan. Since you previously refused such invitations on the pretext that of refusing to internationalize the issue, what is new about this meeting? Will this initiative replace that of the African member states of the Intergovernmental Authority on Drought and Development [IGADD]?

[Al-'Atabani] The Peace Culture seminar organized by UNESCO in Barcelona from Saturday 23 through Tuesday 26 September, on the initiative of the UNESCO director general, is to complement the Peace Culture seminar organized in Khartoum last May. It is not a round of negotiations prompted by a mediation initiative on the problem of southern Sudan, despite the participation of all armed factions from the south. It is a meeting which offered the Sudanese Government, the southern factions, and Sudanese figures of unknown political affiliations a good opportunity to seriously discuss the issues of the culture of peace and to search for a formula leading to further meetings between the Sudanese sides which would enable them to achieve peace and stability in southern Sudan.

Hence, the importance of this seminar is not because it is a round of negotiations between the Sudanese Government and factions of the movements in the South, but because it is an effective channel for communication and dialogue between the government and these movements, which have not been interrupted since the National Salvation Revolution was launched on 30 June 1989.

This seminar does not supersede the role of the initiative of the African IGADD member states, but instead, aims at providing a common ground and an acceptable formula for the sides involved in the problem of southern Sudan, to help reach peaceful options. UNESCO does not want to act as a mediator in the problem of southern Sudan, but hopes that such an initiative will achieve some understanding between the Sudanese sides. And despite our reservations about the participation of some states in the membership of the African IGADD committee and on the Declaration of Principles, and as we mentioned on several occasions, we are still committed to the IGADD initiative under the supervision of Kenyan President Daniel Arap Moi. However, at the same time, we will not disregard any efforts aimed at bolstering and enriching this initiative, because we are determined to reach a peace agreement acceptable to all sides concerned, so that we may dedicate ourselves to the task of developing and building our country.

[Imam] Your relations with your African neighbors are now subject to a noticeable rift. Is this caused by these states' doubts about your orientations and the accusations leveled by some about your interference in their internal affairs, or are there elements trying to undermine your relations with these states?

[Al-'Atabani] This is untrue. We maintain cordial relations with our neighbors, namely Chad, the Central African Republic, Zaire, Kenya, and Libya. There is however no denying that some neighboring states were under external pressures to blockade us, as happened with regard to our relations with Uganda and Eritrea. Thanks to African efforts we were able to reach to a formula to freeze our dispute with Uganda for the moment and work together to restore relations between our two countries to their previous state.

With regard to the recent deterioration in Sudanese-Ethiopian relations, this is undoubtedly a regrettable development for both countries, because we believe that this new position adopted by Ethiopia against us was imposed on it. Likewise, to exploit the forum of the meetings of the committee entrusted with the settlement of African disputes was an unsuccessful attempt by Ethiopia to implicate Sudan in the assassination attempt on Egyptian President Husni Mubarak. There are no indications of the presence of the three individuals who, as Ethiopia alleges, have entered Sudan. There is however evidence of the involvement of some elements from inside Ethiopia in the assassination attempt on the Egyptian president, such as the fact that the individual known as Muhammad Siraj, who, as alleged by Ethiopia, has entered Sudan, holds an Ethiopian passport, is married to an Ethiopian, and has wide freedom of movement inside Ethiopia and Eritrea.

The Ethiopians have also kept quiet about eight individuals who, they had previously claimed, participated in the assassination attempt. Some news reports have indicated that they had entered Ethiopia from Eritrea. A mystery surrounds the death of two Sudanese nationals working in the field of Islamic relief. There is a connection between their assassination and the assassination attempt on the Egyptian president. These elements have a great deal of influence inside Ethiopia.

With regard to accusations leveled at Sudan by Ethiopia, these are unacceptable because they are baseless and there is nothing to prove or support them. It is up to Ethiopia to learn the lessons of history and know that good relations with Sudan are in its interest and vice versa. Ethiopia must not anticipate events, so as not to lead the whole region into turmoil, because if there is turmoil in the region, it will spare no one.

[Imam] Relations between Sudan and the Gulf countries have seen a remarkable recovery. What are, in your opinion, the reasons for this recovery?

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

[Al-'Atabani] We look at our relations with the Gulf states and especially those with Saudi Arabia from the premise that they are strategic relations. We consider Saudi Arabia to be among the states in the region with the most common denominators with Sudan with regard to our ideological convictions and orientations. Moreover, the history of Sudanese-Saudi relations has seen no conflict or dispute over land or ideological tendency. The temporary incidents in relations were due to external factors. We believe that the present climate is right to overcome these obstacles and that the ideological climate in Sudan has given us an opportunity, after these passing clouds, to clarify the Islamic positions, on which the policies of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia are based, with regard to uniting Arab and Islamic ranks and riding the storms of disagreement in both the Arab and Islamic regions.

We also believe that relations with the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia have mostly positive aims, in the interest of the whole Islamic nation and both countries. We also expect that the strengthening of relations with the Kingdom will extend its positive effects over the Gulf region.

We appreciate also that Saudi Arabia is keen on having good relations with Sudan, because this would result in strengthening the Kingdom's relations with Africa. There are however many forces which would be irked by an improvement in these relations, and which would be grieved that these relations come to fruition and lead to positive results. These conspiracies will take several shapes, including media campaigns to cast doubts on Sudan's intentions toward Saudi Arabia and Saudi Arabia's toward Sudan. Unfortunately, these conspiracies will not stop because those who are behind them are very keen on maintaining the state of discord in the region. However, God willing, we shall overcome all these obstacles, thanks to our will and good intentions.

[Imam] What about your relations with the West?

[Al-'Atabani] There is a constant improvement in our relations with the European states, especially France and Germany. Now, our relations with Britain are on the right track, and we hope that they will improve still further. With regard to our relations with the United States, we are working together to improve them.

[Imam] What is the truth behind the incidents in Khartoum during the second week of September?

[Al-'Atabani] The incidents in Khartoum coincided with the release of some prisoners. Some external sides and non-Sudanese elements participated in them.

It is now clear that these elements were connected to the rebel movement and to some states. These states have announced their position on the peace efforts and stability in Sudan and filled the newspapers and radios with communiques, allegations, and pledges to conspire against Sudan. Naturally, the fact that the Khartoum incidents were closely linked to this movement is no surprise to us.

The strength and stability of the regime in Sudan cannot be denied. The regime is advancing and liberating many cities from the rebel forces in southern Sudan. The attempts of some defeated forces to hide behind a small group of students will not prevent us from going ahead in our glorious march, God willing. The fact that more than a million people took to the streets to show support for the government following the Khartoum incidents is unequivocal evidence that the Sudanese people are standing behind their revolution and that the revolution's banner will never fall.

Opposition Cites Claim of Regime's Role in Mubarak Attack

EA0410202195 (Clandestine) Voice of Sudan Voice of the National Democratic Alliance in Arabic 1300 GMT 4 Sep 95

[FBIS Translated Text] In an interview for NEW ERITREA this week, Ethiopian prime minister Meles Zenawi said Sudan's involvement in the attempt to assassinate Mubarak had been verified within a week of its occurrence, when a number of the criminals were arrested as they attempted to escape to Sudan. The Ethiopian prime minister added that the results of the preliminary investigations had been withheld to give time for investigations to be undertaken in Sudan also. He said positive findings had been reached (?confirming the presence) of the criminals in the Sudanese capital. He said the criminals' hideout and operational office, the leaders masterminding their activities in Sudan and the main cadres behind the crime had all been identified. In this connection, Meles Zenawi said a letter had been written to President 'Umar al-Bashir informing him of the presence in Sudan of the criminals, whose names had been specified. Meles Zenawi said the surrender of the criminals to Ethiopia in accordance with the bilateral agreement on the extradition of criminals had been demanded, but this had been refused by the Sudanese Government.

Opposition Radio Reports Capture of 2 Towns

EA0410204295 (Clandestine) Voice of Sudan Voice of the National Democratic Alliance in Arabic 1300 GMT 4 Oct 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The commander-in-chief of the South Sudan Independence Movement [SSIM] forces,

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

commander William Nyuon Teny [as heard], has captured the towns of Akobo and Ayod in the upper Nile state. He is now besieging the town of Waat, which had been taken by forces loyal to Riek Machar [Teny Dhurghon], who is backed by government forces [words indistinct] the front. The government forces had given air cover to Riek's forces in the recent operations when they attacked the town of Ayod from the air on 15 September, killing 18 people.

Commander William Nyuon and the Sudan people's liberation movement [SPLM] had agreed the Lafon declaration, the commander of the SPLM and Sudan People's Liberation Army [words indistinct]. Commander William Nyuon had earlier captured 72 government soldiers, two tanks and three vehicles mounted with machine guns in the Lafon area.

Opposition Urges 'Uprising' Against Government

NC0410154695 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio Network in Arabic 1500 GMT 4 Oct 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The Sudanese opposition in Cairo has stressed the need to step up the struggle and fuel the popular uprising in Sudan in response to the ravings of the al-Bashir-al-Turabi regime.

The Sudanese Democratic Party's information official has announced that Lieutenant General 'Umar al-Bashir, head of the regime led by al-Turabi's [National Islamic] Front, is trying in vain to shore up his disintegrating regime by making unacceptable and vile statements against the Sudanese opposition, Eritrea, the Asmara opposition conference, and Egypt.

He said that while living conditions in Sudan are becoming more critical, a firm foreign attitude is developing and taking the form of a regional and international siege of the al-Bashir-al-Turabi regime.

The Sudanese Democratic Party's information official said the picture that most accurately portrays the Khartoum regime's decline was painted by President Husni Mubarak during his recent interview with the French newspaper LE FIGARO. In it he noted that the al-Bashir-al-Turabi regime must disappear.

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

Qatar

Minister Supports Ending Boycott Against Israel

JN0410190095 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1600 GMT 4 oct 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Shaykh Hamad Bin-Jasim Al Thani, the Qatari foreign minister, today said his country supports canceling the direct economic boycott of Israel even though comprehensive peace in the Middle East has not been realized.

The QATARI NEWS AGENCY cited the minister as saying at a news conference in Washington that his country conducts a monthly evaluation of the progress in the peace process in the region. If we feel there is any progress, even if full peace is not achieved, we will work persistently to cancel the direct boycott of Israel, the minister added.

In 1994, the Arab Gulf states decided to cancel the second and third degree boycott which concerns foreign, particularly Western, companies, that deal with the Hebrew state.

Shaykh Hamad added: It is premature to speak about diplomatic ties with Israel. However, other ties may be established before we establish diplomatic ties. At the moment, he said, we are looking into this situation and evaluating it.

The Qatari foreign minister, who met in New York with Israeli Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres, anticipates the establishment of diplomatic relations between his country and the Hebrew state in the near future if peace is realized with all the other states, such as Syria and Lebanon, as he put it.

United Arab Emirates

Iran Urged To Reopen Talks on Gulf Islands

NC0510093995 Paris AFP in English 0902 GMT 5 Oct 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Dubai, United Arab Emirates, Oct 5 (AFP) — The United Arab Emirates (UAE) has urged Iran to reopen direct talks over three disputed Gulf islands, the press here said Thursday [5 October].

Foreign Minister Rashid Bin-'Abdallah al-Nu'aymi told the United Nations in New York on Wednesday that the islands of Abu Musa, Greater Tunb and Lesser Tunb were an indivisible part of the UAE, according to the official news agency WAM.

"The UAE reaffirms its position calling for direct bilateral and unconditional negotiations with the Islamic Republic of Iran to end its military occupation since 1971 of the three Arab islands," he said.

If its offer is rejected, the UAE will renew its effort to take the dispute to the International Court of Justice in The Hague, according to the WAM report carried by the English-language EMIRATES NEWS.

"In spite of this peaceful approach, the Islamic Republic of Iran not only rejects these initiatives but has also imposed a policy of fait accompli by the use of military force," he told the UN on its 50th anniversary.

He also accused Tehran of taking "a series of illegal procedures and measures that consolidate the state of occupation."

The dispute over the three islands at the mouth of the Gulf resurfaced in 1992 when the UAE accused Iran of having annexed Abu Musa, which the emirate of Sharjah and Iran had run jointly since 1971.

Negotiations held in Abu Dhabi in September 1992 failed after Iran refused to discuss the status of Greater and Lesser Tunb, which it has occupied since 1971 and which the emirate of Ra's al-Khaymah claims.

Yemen

Forces Arrest 'Disrupters of Public Security'

JN0410170395 Sanaa Yemeni Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0430 GMT 4 Oct 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Over the past few days, security forces arrested a number of disrupters of public security in Sanaa who violated law and order, raised terror and worry among the citizens, and attacked public and private property.

This came in a statement by brother Staff Colonel Husayn Muhammad 'Arab, minister of interior, to the YEMENI NEWS AGENCY, SABA'. He said that a dangerous gang was recently arrested. The members of this gang used to kidnap citizens and attack them on the roads. Moreover, they disguised themselves as police and security men, particularly as criminal investigators, to blackmail the victims and to force them to write checks. He noted that this gang took a house in Sanaa municipality as a headquarters to carry out its criminal acts and to hold their victims hostage, taking advantage of the fact that one of them works as a guard at this house.

The brother minister of interior said that in cooperation with the public prosecution, the security bodies are continuing their initial investigations of acts by this gang and other gangs as well as all suspects who were arrested in preparation for putting them on trial so they would receive their deterrent punishment. The brother minister of interior said that the security forces are firmly standing against anyone who tampers with

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

security or disturbs the lives of citizens. He praised the citizens for their continued cooperation with the security forces, for their alertness, for reporting any cases suspected of being linked to the crimes, and for assisting in ascertaining the identity of anyone claiming to be a police or security official. In his statement, he thanked some military quarters for supporting the efforts of police and security officials in terms of entrenching security and providing society with peace of mind.

In another development, Staff Colonel Husayn Muhammad 'Arab, the minister of interior, said there is an ongoing investigation of Algerian national Adam Salah Abu-'Abd-al-Rahman. He was arrested along with his accomplices in al-Dali' district in Lahij Governorate, where he worked as a teacher, for resisting security officials who were tasked with arresting him and his accomplices after they refused to turn themselves in to competent security bodies for interrogation regarding attacks on wedding ceremonies and for creating denominational differences in the area. This resistance resulted in the killing of two security men and the injuring of five others. He said that the law will soon issue its verdict on those and others to teach a lesson to those who seek to encroach on the homeland's security.

Planning Minister on Privatization, Reforms

MM0410144595 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 4 Oct 95 p 13

[Report on interview with 'Abd-al-Qadir Ba-Jammal, deputy prime minister and minister of planning and development, by Naji al-Harazi in Sanaa; date not given]

[FBIS Translated Text] 'Abd-al-Qadir Ba-Jammal, Yemeni deputy prime minister and minister of planning and development, has stated that what is taking place in Yemen in regard to the privatization program is not essentially akin to what happens in other countries, but is "the start of a process of creation of a public comprehension of the concept of privatization."

In an interview with AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT, Ba-Jammal affirmed that "the selling of some of the public sector plants and units in Yemen — which began during the past two years — is being carried out in accordance with Yemeni law that provides for the liquidation of public establishments when their losses exceed their capital...and so the government is now liquidating the establishments suffering losses, in accordance with the concept of privatization."

Ba-Jammal affirmed that during the past years the state has spent billions of rials on the industrial, agricultural, and tourist units owned by the public sector and that it is now tackling the situation within the framework of the law, which provides for the liquidation of establishments when they suffer losses as well as when the purpose for which they were originally set up has expired.

He pointed out that past constitutions used to state that the public sector was the foundation of any economic development and that it was the pioneering leader for other sectors, indeed the supervisor and controller of the other sectors.

Thus in the past the public sector was given special privileges and was endowed with the "right of guardianship" over these sectors in the name of "the people." But under the present constitution, the public sector is no different from other sectors and enjoys no privileges. In other words, the position of the public sector is no longer as it used to be, from a constitutional point of view.

He said there are other factors involved in the process of the liquidation of the unprofitable public sector units or those whose original purpose has expired, namely, that under certain conditions the public sector used to perform a task, which we find now can be ably performed by the private sector. Furthermore, this task was not a strategic task nor one of sovereignty nor does it fall within the framework of the public services which are performed by the state.

For example, why, in this present age, should the state be responsible for the production of shoes or plastic goods or the management of some tourist utilities, at a time when individuals and companies can do all that.

The Yemeni deputy prime minister added that there is yet a third factor in connection with what the government is doing with regard to the public sector factories and establishments, the process which people call privatization. That third factor, he said, is the restoration to the people of their rights, that is the annulment of nationalization and the elimination of its effects. For the state farms were actually built on land owned by individuals, and some factories and establishments were originally owned by individuals. Now the government wants to establish constitutional justice and restore matters to their natural status.

Ba-Jammal expressed his belief that there are some people who believe the state is everything and must do everything and that the citizen is no more than a cog in a big wheel..."this sort of culture is the by-product of the general all-embracing culture that places the people's perception in specific set molds and this makes it difficult to tackle the question of privatization from this angle. On the other hand, there are also some people who believe the state should not interfere in people's lives and that the door should remain wide open, on the grounds that the duty of the state is only to run the affairs of the army, the security forces,and

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

the judiciary, leaving everything else open to private initiative. We must not deal with this line of thinking in an absolute manner, because it fails to take the social dimension into consideration."

Referring to the experience of South Yemen in the pre-unity days, when he occupied a senior post in Aden, Ba-Jammal said: "I have personally experienced the all-embracing state, which led us to a deadlock in regard to resolving the people's problems. It was that road that led us to clashes and brought great tragedies upon us."

He added: "The government is anxious that all should understand that what is taking place at present is being carried out within the framework of implementation of the existing law...even though there are certain aspects which do not meet with the approval of some people...for everyone must realize that there is a law that should be respected and implemented."

Ba-Jammal said the privatization that the Yemeni Government is contemplating is based on four things that have not started yet. They are:

First: The prevention of a monopoly, for it would not make sense to remove the monopoly from the state and the public sector only to turn it into a monopoly by the individual or the private sector.

Second: Privatization should be one of the means of ensuring people's participation in the development operation.

Third: Privatization should constitute an economic and social movement leading to the creation of an intermediary stratum, because the intermediary strata constitute the basis of any development.

Fourth: The creation of an adequate mechanism which would contribute to this type of social balancing by laying down the nucleus of a financial market in Yemen, so that the people learn the meaning of participation in the development process and thus become shareholders — and not only holders of cash in bags or in bank accounts which they use for speculation in the currency market only — something that will lead to the expansion of the base of investment or participants in investments, and thus make the people partners in shares.

Ba-Jammal said the creation of a financial market in Yemen will help to activate the people's participation in the development process making it a matter of interest to all and not only to the government or to a small group of property owners or beneficiaries of the current situation. He pointed out that when scores of new and active joint-stock companies are formed, the development process will become active in various fields and the people will begin to feel their responsibility.

He affirmed that as the Yemeni Government contemplates privatization, the matter should be carried out in an open and frank manner and should not turn into a mafia...so bids should be announced publicly for all to see and the envelopes pertaining to bids should be opened before the eyes of all, and if we announce the sale of any shares, we must ensure that they are open to all and not confined to a narrow framework...thus the privatization files should be made open to all. He said that if the process is shrouded in ambiguity and secrecy, "then a state of suspicion will prevail and rumors will begin to fly and this is a state we can do without."

With regard to his visit to Washington shortly and his meetings there with responsible officials of the World Bank and the IMF, Ba- Jammal said that the Yemeni Government is in the process of defining a number of development projects to be combined under the name of Civilian Public Works Program, which will require no less than $34 million to be provided by the World Bank.

The Yemeni deputy prime minister added that the aforementioned program would include a series of projects with allocations ranging from 2 million to 3 million U.S. dollars, "so that we may minimize bureaucracy in the field of the implementation of this type of project, particularly following the government's recent approval of the principle of delegation of authority...so ministers can make decisions in matters costing up to $1 million, while the project managers can make decisions in matters costing up to $200,000. This is in addition to the powers vested in the supreme committee for bids which cover expenditure of $3 million and over, and the powers vested in the provincial governors who can make decisions involving $50 million pertaining to local projects.

Ba-Jammal said this decision constitutes a complete coup in the field of the implementation of projects "and if the ministers are able to benefit from the system of delegation of powers, succeed in implementing it properly, and restructure their departments accordingly, then this will constitute an administrative revolution."

Ba-Jammal linked the government's decision to the projects to be financed by the World Bank, saying that this decision will help facilitate the implementation of projects in a more flexible manner. He expressed his hope that the [World] Bank will increase its allocations for the privatization projects to U.S. $100 million shortly.

The Yemeni deputy prime minister pointed out that the changes recently approved by the government to facilitate the implementation of the program or the projects to be financed by the World Bank and other

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

international organizations, and which suffered from delays..."have included the decision to minimize the formalities pertaining to projects by the departments concerned. Thus instead of the 49 signatures a project used to need, starting with the signatures of those responsible for it, through to the ministry concerned, through to the Ministry of Planning, the Central Bank, the Ministry Of Finance, the department of customs, and finally the customs department concerned, the manager of the project can now deal directly with the customs director concerned."

Asked by AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT about the measures to be taken to ensure the honesty of the operation and its safety from manipulation, Ba-Jammal said: Naturally, it is all relative, as precise implementation would need angels...but we have laid down the system and will monitor its implementation in a manner that would not prompt some to consider it as an umbrella to camouflage corruption.

Ba-Jammal said that when the ministry reaches an agreement with the financier and the project manager on the equipment and machines needed, the necessary lists would be drawn up. When the equipment and machines arrive, they are only checked to see that they match [the list]. But if new elements get involved, only then would recourse be made to the ministry for a decision.

Asked about the project pertaining to the reform of sectors, which was recently proposed by the Ministry of Planning and Development and was approved by the Yemeni cabinet, he said: "The question of the sector's reform was complementary to the program of economic, financial, and administrative reform which was sponsored by the government last April, or more precisely, it was a project occupying second place after the reforms we hope to carry out in Yemen."

He added: "The immediate and principal reforms concern the tackling of the deficit in the budget and the balance of payments, interest, and other measures which the government has begun to implement...but we have reached the conviction that complete reform cannot be achieved in the absence of partial reform...why? Because the problems that appear on the surface are in fact a reflection of the lower sectors' impotence in the fields of production, distribution, and marketing or in the fields of transport, communications, and public services...this impotence is reflected in our conditions generally."

He pointed out that the government believes that every sector has its own characteristics and that the minister concerned can specify the strategies, objectives, and means for the development of the sector for which he is responsible. "Thus, we have defined the aspects that should be studied and they cover 20 topics approximately, each of which consists of several issues...for which we have defined the mechanisms and implementation means, out of our belief that without mechanisms and without the possible necessary means, our projects will remain mere ideas in our minds and mere ink on paper."

He added that the project on sector reforms is based on a number of mechanisms such as the feasibility and management mechanism, the field mechanism, the advisory mechanisms and the popular mechanisms...and that the last set of mechanisms is the most important "because it will make possible the participation of all in shouldering the responsibility, particularly as the experts, social personalities, and members of parliament have their weight in Yemeni society and we must ensure their participation with the government and that they help it to succeed in performing its tasks."

He said he felt support from the World Bank for the idea of sector reforms and readiness to cooperate with the allocation of an integrated program for this project and to finance the mechanisms that will carry it out "so that we can amend some of the systems, laws, and regulations that conflict with each other or do not complement each other...." He pointed out that during the past period, the government has established that some conflict occurs between certain public posts and their mechanisms or even between the issues themselves. It also established that there is a lack of the required justice in the distribution of services and the utilities throughout the country." This, he said, has prompted the government, now that democratic climates have prevailed and all Yemeni regions are represented in parliament, to realize the importance of the participation of all in the development process as well as in shouldering responsibility and following up people's cases.

Concluding, Ba-Jammal affirmed that the program of sector reforms is a practical interpretation of the "people's participation" in the development process. He pointed out that the program "will require foreign consultation and the services of feasibility studies companies. We have proposed the submission of all the things we require in the form of a booklet of conditions and have invited the competent international companies to cooperate with us in this program."

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

Al-Sahhaf Views Ties With Jordan, Syria, Egypt

NC0510105695 Cairo AL-AHALI in Arabic 27 Sep 95 p 12

[Interview with Foreign Minister Muhammad Sa'id al-Sahhaf by Yusuf al-Sharif in Cairo; date not given]

[FBIS Translated Text] [al-Sharif] Since 1990 the Iraqi leadership has not issued a statement within the context of self-criticism or reviewing mistakes. How can we assure the Iranian and Kuwaiti people that the mistakes will not be repeated in future?

[Al-Sahhaf] As I have said in the past, we do not wish to reopen old wounds or files. Iraq has, in fact, recognized Kuwait's borders and its independent status. We have responded to all the UN resolutions. Ties between peoples are more permanent and important than conflicts. Healing wounds requires a dialogue and political, cultural, and media action to overcome the tragedies of the past and probe the prospects of peace.

[Al-Sharif] There are reports of a U.S. agricultural project being implemented in Iraq. Is there any truth in these reports?

[Al-Sahhaf] The published reports give the impression that this is a new project. It is an old one dating back to 1960, under the monarchy. Brazilian, German, and British consultants successively dealt with it until 1970. We reviewed the project after the Gulf crisis and decided to speed it up with Iraqi expertise and resources so as to meet some of our food needs by desalinating agricultural land. In fact we got rid of 82 million tons of salt by draining the salt water into the Gulf. The project was extended to drain the shallow waters in the al-Ahwaz area. We are now benefiting from four million dunams of arable land.

[Al-Sharif] How do you explain Jordan's involvement in trying to topple Iraq's ruling regime immediately after Husayn Kamil fled there? Why did it suddenly renege on its attempt?

[Al-Sahhaf] No comment. Iraq is seeking to develop bilateral relations and common interests.

[Al-Sharif] There are confirmed reports that diplomatic channels between Baghdad and Damascus are open now that King Husayn has announced his readiness to help topple Saddam Husayn's regime.

[Al-Sahhaf] We value the stands of Presidents Hafiz al-Asad and Husni Mubarak on Iraq's unity and their opposition to interference in our internal affairs. I praised President al-Asad's stand at the time; and we hope to normalize our relations with fraternal Syria soon.

[Al-Sharif] And Egypt? What are the obstacles or difficulties preventing the normalization of our two countries' relations?

[Al-Sahhaf] There are no obstacles or difficulties on Iraq's side. In my meetings and talks with Egyptian Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa we discussed all aspects of relations and joint interests very frankly and openly. We also discussed the Arab situation from all angles. I believe that the coming days will see more dialogues on Arab solidarity and closing the gap between the two countries.

[Al-Sharif] What is being done about the problem of the Iraqi debts to Egypt?

[Al-Sahhaf] Egypt has submitted the problem to the UN compensation committee. Though a solution to the problem was not what Egypt is seeking, because that was not the right committee in which to raise the issue. We offered to hold bilateral discussions to settle the issue of the funds due to the Egyptian brothers—which amount to around $479 million—as soon as the sanctions on Iraq are lifted, since our financial assets remain frozen abroad.

Minister Says 'Udayy Not in Position To Govern

NC0410133295 Paris AFP in English 1212 GMT 4 Oct 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Dubai, United Arab Emirates, Oct 4 (AFP) — Iraqi President Saddam Husayn's son 'Udayy "is not in a position to govern," Foreign Minister Muhammad Sa'id al-Sahhaf said in an interview published Wednesday [4 October].

"'Udayy Saddam Husayn is an athlete. He heads the Olympic committee. This is normal," al-Sahhaf told the London-based Arabic newspaper AL-HAYAH, a copy of which was obtained in the United Arab Emirates.

"'Udayy is not in a position to govern," he said. Iraqi opposition members in exile said Saddam Husayn has been grooming his eldest son, who is 31 years old, to succeed him. "There is no family in power in Iraq, but a presidential set-up which includes a main party, the Baath, and also a system to appoint officials," al-Sahhaf said.

The Iraqi opposition says power is concentrated in Saddam's and his family's hands.

Besides the Olympic committee, 'Udayy heads two newspapers as well as a television and radio station while the younger son Qusayy directs Saddam's personal security.

Al-Sahhaf said "multiparty politics will be applied in Iraq immediately after the lifting of the embargo," which

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

the United Nations imposed on Iraq after it invaded Kuwait in August 1990.

Washington, backed by London, is opposed to any easing of sanctions until Iraq has complied with all UN resolutions, including the release of Kuwaiti prisoners.

Ministry Condemns Iran Hosting Kurd Meetings

JN0410144395 Baghdad INA in English 1340 GMT 4 Oct 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Baghdad, Oct 4, INA — Iraq has renewed its denunciation and condemnation for the contacts Iran had made with the Iraq's Kurds.

Commenting on the visit made by Mas'ud Barzani and Jalal Talabani to Tehran on September 17, 23 on an invitation by the Iranian Government to hold negotiations about what is called by the situation in Iraq, as well as the meeting which was held in Tehran on last Tuesday between them under the auspices of the Iranian Government to settle all the disputes between the two parties, spokesman of Foreign Ministry said: "Directing such invitations to Iraqi Kurds who are responsible for the abnormal situations in northern Iraq confirms the insistence by Iran on interfering in Iraq's internal affairs. [no closing quotation marks as received]

The spokesman explained that Mas'ud Barzani and Jalal Talabani paid a visit to Iran during the second half of last September on an invitation by the Iranian Government, and they held meetings with Iranian senior officials allegedly to discuss what is called by the situation in Iraq.

Besides, two delegations representing the two Kurdish parties held a meeting in Tehran on Tuesday under the auspices of the Iranian Government to settle the disputes between them and which was described by the adviser of the Iranian foreign minister as political, he added.

The spokesman demonstrated as well that at the time the Iraqi Government denounces such contacts and practices, it confirms that facing the extraordinary situation in northern Iraq cannot be achieved but through solid cooperation with the government and through stepping over all the tricky policies that would cause serious harm to the relations the two sides want to build.

The source added that the Foreign Ministry had summoned on Wednesday the Iranian charge d'affaires in Baghdad and had him informed with the Iraqi Government's protest against such policy, which represents a deliberate interference in Iraq's internal affairs.

The spokesman added that hosting Barzani and Talabani representatives meeting in Iran came few days after a failure move made by the American Administration, as it joined both sides in Dublin meeting, the one Iran denounced considering it an interference in Iraq's internal affairs.

KDP's Barzani on Talks With Talabani

JN0410191995 London AL-WASAT in Arabic 29 Sep-1 Oct p 36

[Interview with KDP leader Mas'ud Barzani by unidentified correspondent; place and date not given]

[FBIS Translated Text] [AL-WASAT] What is the difference between negotiating with Saddam Husayn and Jalal Talabani [leader of the Patriotic Union of Kurdistan, PUK]?

[Barzani] It is probably easier for us to understand what Saddam Husayn really wants, but we did not know what Talabani wanted and when he would renege on an agreement. So far, I have not concluded any agreement with Saddam Husayn, but I signed three agreements with Talabani, and before the ink of these agreements was dry he had violated them in one way or another.

[AL-WASAT] What was the point that fully satisfied you in Dublin agreement?

[Barzani] The point that deals with the disarmament of Irbil. The key to this is evacuating the military forces from Irbil. What is important is restoring the legitimacy and convening the parliament, but nothing can be realized before disarming Irbil.

[AL-WASAT] Are you prepared to meet with Talabani in Washington as scheduled on 25 September?

[Barzani] The important thing is to reach a serious agreement. The holding of a meeting with him is not important. When a KDP [Kurdistan Democratic Party] delegation signs a document, it does so on my behalf.

[AL-WASAT] What kind of pressure can the United States employ on Talabani to force him to respect an agreement?

[Barzani] The United States is an influential superpower, and it can pay attention to, or ignore the subject.

[AL-WASAT] Any agreement will only be an initial step toward normalization, so what is the Kurdistan Government supposed to do?

[Barzani] First, the Kurdistan Government should restore respect for law and order, then it should begin implementing feasible projects to improve the economic situation. The last government did not implement a single project, not even a small water pipe project.

[AL-WASAT] What about elections?

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

[Barzani] The fighting broke out in May 1994 as a result of elections. The latest fighting was also caused by elections. When I spoke in February 1994 about the need to conduct elections, they responded to me and then used a simple incident to start a large battle. A meeting was then held in Paris in July 1994, and it was agreed to hold elections. They said then the elections should be delayed or should be held in accordance with a unified list system. This means that the KDP and the PUK would have equal seats.

[AL-WASAT] Why does the PUK fear elections?

[Barzani] Because they know they will lose.

[AL-WASAT] Following the recent developments in Baghdad, especially after the defection of Husayn Kamil, do you think the Iraqi opposition is prepared to face the new situation? Saddam Husayn's house is on fire and the Kurds are fighting among themselves.

[Barzani] The Iraqi opposition will continue to fight even when they reach the doorstep of Saddam's house.

[AL-WASAT] What is your position on the mass emigration of a large number of Kurdish intellectuals?

[Barzani] I think that the people are desperate, and that is why they leave. Perhaps another reason for the present situation is that many people do not adopt a position and do not express their views on the situation.

[AL-WASAT] What is your response to the Amnesty International's report on human rights violations in Iraqi Kurdistan?

[Barzani] We did not say that nothing has taken place, but there is much exaggeration. That organization published its report without coming here and without talking to us. However, we respect it and will reply to the charges.

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

Rabin To Open, Peres To Close Knesset Debate

TA0510064395 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0500 GMT 5 Oct 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] The Knesset will begin its debate on the interim agreement at midday today. The debate will start with addresses by Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin and Likud Chairman Binyamin Netanyahu. Our correspondents Yo'el Nir and Hayim Hecht report that the vote is expected at daybreak tomorrow, and that the vote will be declared a motion of confidence in the government. [passage omitted]

Prior to the debate, the Likud demands that it receive all agreements with and promises given to Alex Goldfarb and YI'UD [Independent and Democratic Israel] in a bid to persuade them to support the agreement. Our correspondent Pe'erli Shahar notes that according to the law, all agreements and promises made prior to a parliamentary vote for the purpose of obtaining the support of a faction or a Knesset member for the government or coalition stands should be made known to the public and the Knesset.

Coalition Chairman Ra'anan Kohen said in reaction that Alex Goldfarb has neither made any requests nor received any promises from the Labor Party in return for his vote.

[Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew at 0505 GMT on 5 October adds that the last speaker at the all-night Knesset debate will be Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres.]

Labor Decides Knesset Vote Binding on Coalition

TA0510102795 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0900 GMT 5 Oct 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Addressing the Labor faction meeting this morning, the prime minister said that, were it possible, he would appeal to Knesset Members Qahalani and Zismann's conscience and urge them to reconsider their deeds. Yitzhaq Rabin added that the Third Way reminds him of DASH [Democratic Movement for Change, which gained 15 seats when it first ran in 1977 and broke up in 1978], which transferred the power from Alignment to the Likud. Everyone knows what happened to DASH, the prime minister said.

He emphasized that Qahalani's and Zismann's Knesset seats are not their personal property. Our correspondent Yo'el Nir cites Mr. Rabin as saying that the charge that the government does not have a Jewish majority is a racial statement. He stressed that the government did not cede its responsibility for outside security by signing the interim agreement, and that although the pledge not to take down settlements will impose an enormous burden on the defense establishment, his government will surmount the difficulty.

At the end of the meeting, an unanimous resolution was passed stating that the Labor faction views the interim agreement as the implementation of the party platform and the government guidelines, and that the Knesset vote on the agreement is binding on all faction and coalition members.

Closure on Territories Extended Until 8 Oct

TA0410173895 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1700 GMT 4 Oct 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The closure on Judaea, Samaria, and Gaza has been extended until Sunday [8 October]. As of 0400 tomorrow morning, 1,500 Judaea and Samaria laborers will be allowed to leave for the olive harvest in Israel.

Policeman Wounded by Shots at Joint Patrol

TA0410185695 Jerusalem Israel Television Channel 1 Network in Hebrew 1800 GMT 4 Oct 95

[Announcer-read report]

[FBIS Translated Text] An Israeli policeman was slightly wounded on the eve of Yom Kippur by shots fired at a joint Israeli-Palestinian patrol near the Sufa roadblock in the Gaza Strip. Our correspondent Shlomi Eldar reports that the patrol returned fire in the direction of the source of the fire and that searches conducted this morning discovered bomb particles as well as leaflets signed by the Islamiq Salvation Front.

Beilin Said Involved in Jerusalem Solution Plan

TA0410142995 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 3 Oct 95 p A1

[Report by Nadav Shragay]

[FBIS Translated Text] Ron Pundaq and Ya'ir Hirschfeld, who headed the team that drafted the Oslo A agreement, are currently drafting a plan for a permanent arrangement between Israel and the Palestinians which includes a solution to the Jerusalem problem. Among other things, the two are reexamining the quarters plan that former Jerusalem Mayor Teddy Kollek presented in the 1970's.

According to the proposal, two city subcouncils will be established, one Jewish and one Arab, which will be subject to the authority of a joint umbrella council. Semiautonomous quarters will operate on the ground, mainly on the Arab side. The idea is defined as a compromise on the issue of the distribution of functional-administrative powers. Distribution of authorities could

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

help promote a political solution for the Jerusalem problem.

The examination of the quarters idea includes a review of their boundaries as drafted by several elements, mainly researchers.

Pundaq and Hirschfeld are examining several ideas on solutions for the problem of the holy sites, mainly joint sovereignty — Israeli, Jordanian, and Palestinian sovereignty at Muslim holy places and Israeli and Vatican sovereignty at Christian sites. Israel will be the source of authority for the joint sovereignties, which will be renewed every 25 years.

The work is being done at the Tel Aviv-based Economic Cooperation Foundation, ICS, established by Dr. Yosi Beilin at the time. It is being done in cooperation with the Arab Study Society (in fact, Orient House) headed by Faysal al-Husayni.

Pundaq and Hirschfeld have recently contacted research institutes and officials for opinions on and reactions to issues related to the problem of Jerusalem — holy sites, sovereignty, and municipal administration.

Political sources yesterday estimated that this is a draft permanent solution for Jerusalem, prepared under the guise of an academic study. The sources noted that the team that prepared the Oslo agreement three years ago in Norway is being accompanied by Beilin, then deputy foreign minister and current economics and planning minister. They maintain that detailed negotiations on the plan will begin as soon as the other side accepts it in principle.

Hirschfeld told HA'ARETZ that so far, this is an academic study "held not only for academic considerations." He added that most significant of all is Kollek's quarters plan. At the same time, he said that it is too early to speak of a preferred option because the work is still under way. He has, in fact, confirmed that Beilin is connected with the plan even today, but refused to comment on the existence of working relations with the Arab Study Society.

The Jerusalem quarters plan was first presented by Dr. Hayim Arlosoroff in 1932, and revised versions of the plan have been raised on several occasions since. The most recent version was that presented by former Supreme Court Justice Hayim Kohen, who in 1982 drafted the Jerusalem Constitution, which is a sort of legal rendition of the plan.

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

IAF Figure Comments on Jerusalem Resolutions

NC0410194795 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran in Arabic 1730 GMT 4 Oct 95

[Telephone interview with IAF Secretary General Ishaq al-Farhan, in Amman, by Jihad al-'Idan, in Tehran; date not given; from the "News and Reports" program—recorded]

[FBIS Translated Text] [al-'Idan] Dr. Ishaq al-Farhan, Israel has proposed canceling the resolutions issued on Jerusalem at the Security Council. How do you evaluate the official stance to confront such steps?

[Al-Farhan] Unfortunately, Israel always announces that Jerusalem is its eternal capital. This is a cancellation of the Pact of 'Umar and of the whole Arab and Islamic history of Jerusalem. And still, regrettably, leaders such as Yasir 'Arafat and others have applauded this proposal. The issue was very strange for us. We believe Israel has always tried to entrench its occupation. The problem of Jerusalem will be a big problem for the Israelis, since they have always declared that it is their eternal capital. They have lied. Jerusalem is the place to which the prophet travelled and from which he started his nocturnal journey to heaven. Jerusalem will always be the focus of attention of the Arab and Islamic nation. We will not recognize all these things.

[Al-'Idan] Ishaq al-Farhan, our last question concerns whether you have any other steps for confronting normalization and opposing the Zionist enemy.

[Al-Farhan] We consider ourselves a part of the Arab and Islamic nation, which, as long as Jerusalem and Palestine are occupied, should not have peace with the Israeli enemy. As long as our people are under occupation, the Arab and Islamic nations must not capitulate to these official solutions and should keep all their cultural, social, political, and party organs prepared and ready, because we believe this is a passing phase. The next stage will be the phase for liberating the homeland.

[Al-'Idan] God willing. We thank Dr. Ishaq al-Farhan, secretary general of the Islamic Action Front [IAF] in Jordan, for this dialogue. Thank you very much.

Al-Kabariti on Gulf Ties, Nonaligned Activities

JN0510080895 Amman Radio Jordan Network in Arabic 0500 GMT 5 Oct 95

[Report by 'Ali Hamati in New York]

[FBIS Translated Text] Foreign Minister 'Abd-al-Karim al-Kabariti continues to attend the general debates of the 50th session of the UN General Assembly. Al-Kabariti had several activities on the sidelines of these debates. Most of these activities dealt with the Arab issues listed on the agenda of the UN General Assembly. The foreign minister spoke to Radio Jordan on these activities, the earlier developments in Washington, and the subsequent activities in Colombia.

[Begin recording] [Hamati] Your Excellency the Minister, after the signing of the Palestinian-Israeli Taba agreement in Washington, how can this development serve the Middle East peace process in general and the Jordanian-Israeli peace treaty in particular? What effect will it have on the future relations between Jordan and the Palestinians?

[Al-Kabariti] The peace process should be viewed as an integrated whole. The Egyptian negotiator managed to restore his rights through the Camp David negotiations and so did the Jordanian negotiator through the Jordanian-Israeli peace treaty. Therefore, we feel that these agreements are part of a continued, integrated process in which we hope that the Palestinian negotiator with his wisdom, patience, realism, and objectivity has also managed to arrive at a balanced agreement in Taba in line with the guidelines of the Oslo agreement. We hope that the Taba agreement will pave the ground for a new reality constituting a framework for the Palestinian state and a basis for the Palestinian elections expected to take place after the completion of the Israeli redeployment. We believe that the elections are extremely necessary so that the Palestinian people could exercise democracy and pluralism, which are necessary for creating a Palestinian representative legitimacy and achieving national unity behind the legitimate leadership. I believe that what has happened on the Palestinian track provides new grounds for optimism in the peace process. We hope that this will assist the Syrian and Lebanese tracks, God willing.

[Hamati] While in New York on the sidelines of the general debates of the UN General Assembly, you held a number of meetings. What are the most important meetings and topics that have been raised?

[Al-Kabariti] In fact, I met with most Arab foreign ministers, either bilaterally, or through the meeting that was held yesterday and comprised all Arab foreign ministers. There was also a four-way meeting yesterday which comprised the foreign ministers of Qatar, Oman, Tunisia, and Jordan. There is almost full coordination among all parties. The issues raised at the UN General Assembly are not contentious issues among Arab states. The only controversial issue is the election of Libya as a UN Security Council member state. This issue, in fact, has not been settled. The Libyan foreign minister refused to discuss this issue at the general meeting of Arab foreign ministers. We believe that this issue should

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

be settled by the Arab North African states since now it is the turn of one of these states to become UN Security Council member.

[Hamati] Your excellency the minister: You intend to head for Cartagena in Colombia to attend the Non-aligned Movement [NAM] conference. Will a Jordanian working paper be presented? What results do you wish to see at the end of this conference?

[Al-Kabariti] Jordan is a NAM founding member-state. While extremely interested in the continuation of this movement, we wish to see a new purpose for this movement, especially since the international changes and existing circumstances may signal the need to dissolve this bloc, based on the argument that there are now no two poles competing over loyalties and interests. We believe that the NAM states have a new role which they can play through the new world peace agenda, development agenda, and democracy agenda. We wish to see this bloc constituting a basis for the existing North- South dialogues and a basis for building a mechanism which can narrow the gap between the living standards in the states of the north and south, between the developing and developed states.

[Hamati] A last question: On the level of foreign relations, much has been said that the improvement of Jordanian-Gulf relations and whether they will be at the expense of Jordanian-Iraqi relations. Is there a progress in the Jordanian-Gulf relations? How can these relations be improved without affecting our relations with other states?

[Al-Kabariti] First of all, I do not know why our relations with Iraq should be linked to our relations with the Gulf states. The Jordanian policy is based on the fact that Jordan must have balanced relations with all neighboring states without these relations being in favor of certain states against other states. We are proud of our relations with the Arab states. We believe that these relations must always be distinguished and special. We believe that our relations, hearts, and orientation must always be Arab. We also insist on maintaining open borders and good relations with Iraq. At the same time, we are earnestly seeking to improve and promote our relations with the Gulf states. I believe that these relations will witness further improvement, God willing. [end recording]

The foreign minister arrived in New York from Washington a few days ago after attending the signing of the Palestinian-Israeli Taba agreement.

Meanwhile, al-Kabariti will head for Cartagena, Colombia to attend the NAM conference. The foreign minister will then return to New York, where he will deliver Jordan's address to the 50th session of the UN General Assembly on 10 October.

Syrian TV Reporting on Opposition Criticized

JN0410164795 Amman AL-RA'Y in Arabic 4 Oct 95 p 22

["Every Day" column by Tariq Masarwah: "We Object, Criticize, and Attack, But in Our Own Interest"]

[FBIS Translated Text] None of those who watch Syrian Television will be annoyed when this television focuses its interest on statements by Jordanian parties, and on articles and reports by Jordanian newspapers which oppose peace, normalization, or the government. The freedom of parties, the press, and the opposition are a Jordanian national choice. We hope that the brothers in the Syrian media will not try to convince themselves that what they are broadcasting about Jordan and from Jordan is an endorsement of their political stands because Syrian-Israeli negotiations, peace, and normalization are, as Syrian officials tell us "a strategic choice."

We know that the brothers in Syria favor the freedom of parties, opposition, and the press in Jordan but they do not favor this freedom very much in Syria itself. The brothers in Syria support the resistance against Israeli occupation in southern Lebanon and the intifadah in the occupied Palestinian territory, but they do not want the resistance or the intifadah to begin from the Golan. This is their business, but we in Jordan like our opposition parties and our free press to serve one side, that is, Jordan, and one objective, that is, Jordan's democratic march. If Syrian Television likes to carry statements by opposition parties, then it should carry them accurately. A statement with the phrase "the enemy prime minister" should be carried as it is and should not be turned into "Israeli prime minister." A statement that sympathizes with the suffering of the Iraqi people should not be omitted. Moreover, if a statement denounces U.S. imperialism, then such a precise political expression should not be overlooked. These opposition parties and these newspapers, which attack the Jordanian Government, attack the embargo on Iraq, and attack U.S. policy mean what they say. We respect these opinions in Jordan. However, using these opinions as a political tactic is not at all in line with our convictions.

The Syrian citizen, who listens to what Syrian Television reports about opposition press and parties in Jordan, will not consider such reports a disapproval of Jordanian policies. On the contrary, such reports will engender respect for a country which has parties, an opposition, and a press and deals in democracy.

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

Neither the partisan opposition in Jordan nor the press's criticism of the government exasperate anyone. Moreover, the presence of a House of Representatives, in which 30 out of 80 representatives withhold confidence in the government and oppose the peace treaty and normalization, does not exasperate anyone. This is democracy.

German Official on Full Support for Peace Process

JN0310184495 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 3 Oct 95 p 3

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Amman (Petra)—Visiting Vice President of the German Parliament (Bundestag) Hans Klein, who Monday [2 October] met with Jordanian parliamentarians to discuss Middle East peace and bilateral relations, said that Germany fully backs the peace process.

The Middle East peace process should be backed by all available means so that it can achieve a just and comprehensive settlement, said Mr. Klein adding that one should have an optimistic view on the peace era.

Voicing appreciation of the Jordanian Government and people's efforts towards peace and development, Mr. Klein, who is accompanied by a representative delegation of all political streams in the Bundestag, said Jordanians are unique among the other people of the region because of their high standard of education.

Mr. Klein, who arrived in Amman Sunday evening for a six-day visit, said Germany appreciates the role of His Majesty King Husayn in promoting democratic life in Jordan and in seeking a just and durable peace adding that his country would offer all that it can to back the Kingdom's endeavours for peace.

Mr. Klein met with Speaker of the Upper House of Parliament Ahmad al-Lawzi, who voiced Jordan's appreciation of German assistance to the Kingdom in all fields.

Mr. al-Lawzi reviewed with Mr. Klein the ongoing peace process and Jordanian-German relations.

At a meeting with Chairman of the Lower House of Parliament's Foreign Affairs Committee, 'Abdallah al-Nusur, the two parliamentarians discussed the peace process.

Dr. al-Nusur urged Germany and the other European countries to support the peace process and help end the disparities in the standard of living between the people of Israel and the Arab people around the Jewish state.

Mr. Klein and his delegation met also with 'Abd-al-Hadi al- Majali, deputy speaker of House, to review Jordanian parliamentary life and to learn about the country's democratic march.

Speaker Sa'd Hayil al-Surur is on an official visit to Moscow.

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

Buwayz Addresses UN; Meets al-Shar', Musa

NC0410181395 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 1630 GMT 4 Oct 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Foreign Minister Faris Buwayz, who is heading Lebanon's delegation to New York for the 50th anniversary of the United Nations, delivered Lebanon's speech stating that Lebanon has for years borne the effects and repercussions of the Middle East crisis. Lebanon has paid the highest price for this. Lebanon is again proving it can overcome difficulties and resist challenges. While Buwayz stressed that Lebanon will again prove that there are some countries with a history much greater than their geography and a role greater than their size, he noted that Lebanon's full sovereignty is not yet fulfilled, its real independence is incomplete, and basic parts of its land are out of earshot of the homeland's call. This hinders the government from extending its full authority over all its territory. Minister Buwayz pointed out that the Israeli prisons and detention centers are reverberating with the suffering of Lebanese citizens. This shows there is a flagrant violation of human rights without the world showing a care about this.

Buwayz announced in his speech that the wound will not heal and the bleeding will not stop as long as the Israeli occupation of over one-eighth of the national area continues. The foreign minister added that the methods used in the UN Security Council to handle Lebanon's protests do not constitute the best method for the Council to perform its role. Minister Buwayz called on the United Nations to activate its mechanism and strengthen confidence in its justice and credibility. It should also remove hegemony from its resolutions, eliminate the imbalance from its formulas, and unite standards regarding its commitments so that its role as an international authority will not be abandoned for heated confrontations.

Today, on the sidelines of the event, Buwayz met his two counterparts, Syrian Faruq al-Shar' and Egyptian 'Amr Musa. Al- Shar' pointed out that discussions focussed on the peace process, the situation in the region, and relations between Lebanon and Syria. Al-Shar' asked the U.S. sponsor to exert additional efforts to remove the obstacles if the objective is for the peace process to move forward. After meeting the Syrian minister, Buwayz expressed his opinion that the internal and tactical accounts of the Israeli officials have so far constituted the major obstacle to progress on every track.

Buwayz also took part in the coordination meeting of the Arab foreign ministers. He described the meeting as one based on resolutions adopted previously in the Arab League.

Two Announce Candidacy for Presidential Office

NC0410181495 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 1530 GMT 4 Oct 95

[FBIS Translated Text] A new and striking development occurred today in connection with the presidential election. Former Chamber of Deputies member Pierre Dakkash announced that he would run for president on a 12-point platform.

In a news conference at the Editors Association headquarters, Dakkash pledged to make the country's firm national principles guide his actions to achieve the objectives desired by all Lebanese. He said he will seek to ensure that the Lebanese people are sovereign and have the power to make their own decisions and choices.

Dakkash committed himself to establishing good relations with Syria based on good neighborliness, fraternity, and mutual interests that rest on respect for both countries' sovereignty, independence, and privacy.

Dr. Nasib Khuri sent a cable to the Chamber of Deputies speaker declaring his candidacy for the post of president on the basis of a platform that he will proclaim to the public at a news conference.

SLA Commander on Annexation, Bayt Yahun Operation

NC0410153895 Kafr Kilia Voice of the South in Arabic 1430 GMT 4 Oct 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Lieutenant Colonel 'Aql Hashim, commander of the Western Brigade in the South Lebanese Army [SLA], said today that hundreds of citizens urged him to retaliate for the Bayt Yahun operation. Hashim told them it is not SLA policy to hurt civilian areas, north of the border region, although he is confident the gunmen live among the citizens there. But Hashim pointed out that the SLA will respond to the attacks without harming civilians, unlike the terrorists, who attack civilians.

Lt. Col. Hashim criticized the UN Interim Force in Lebanon [UNIFIL], saying its centers have become a cover for the terrorists to stage operations against the border area. He said that when the terrorists escape they hide in this force's centers because they know the SLA does not attack the UNIFIL centers. He said UNIFIL has become a false witness.

Touching on reports of Israel's annexation of land belonging to the Maronite Bishopric, Lt. Col. Hashim said there have been no demographic changes there

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

since 1986. He said that he personally was assured that the Israeli command in the area has no intention of annexing any land. Lt. Col. Hashim added that those who lament the southern land are the same ones who sold out the homeland. [passage omitted]

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

Al-Shar' Meets Saudi, Egyptian, Lebanese Officials

JN0410184295 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1615 GMT 4 Oct 95

[FBIS Translated Text] New York — Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' met with Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal, foreign minister of Saudi Arabia, in New York today. They discussed Arab developments, the peace process, and relations between the two fraternal countries.

Al-Shar' also met with Egyptian Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa. They discussed the situation in the region, the peace process, and relations between both sisterly countries.

Al-Shar' also met with Lebanese Foreign Minister Faris Buwayz. They exchanged views on the political atmosphere at the United Nations, developments in the peace process, Arab developments, and relations between both fraternal countries.

The Arab foreign ministers held a meeting on the sidelines of the UN General Assembly [UNGA] meetings. Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' took part in the meeting. They discussed and coordinated positions regarding the topics on the agenda of the UNGA's 50th session.

Madrid Formula Said 'Road' to Comprehensive Peace

JN0410180795 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0545 GMT 4 Oct

[From the press review]

[FBIS Translated Text] Under the headline "The Israeli Maneuvers," TISHRIN says: In light of the Israeli attempts to circumvent and sabotage the peace process, it is now imperative to return back to the basics and foundations of the peace process because such a return will put an end to Israel's endeavor to mix between the marginal and substantive issues. Recalling the fundamentals of the peace process will provide a clear-cut, unambiguous answer to all the Israeli attempts and will also reveal that Israel is the party that made the peace process dormant because of its obstacles, hurdles, and maneuvers.

TISHRIN notes that the developments that followed the Madrid Conference have proven — as Foreign Minister al-Shar' said in his speech to the UN General Assembly's 50th session — that the Israeli rulers are not seeking a genuine, just, and comprehensive peace that would open the road to ending the conflict, occupation, and settlement activity and that would ensure security and stability for all parties. Equally, these developments proved, through facts, that Israel has evaded the requirements of peace and tried to strike at its basic prerequisites by adopting the policy of separate deals, phased solutions, and partial settlements. Such a policy runs counter to the objective sought by the U.S. initiative, on whose basis the Madrid Conference was convened.

TISHRIN believes that Israel is not serious about making peace as set by the will of international legitimacy. Therefore, it wasted all the available chances to arrive at peace. Moreover, it started to shed crocodile tears because the negotiations did not continue, especially on the Syrian and Lebanese tracks, and because no secret talks were held to discuss everything. At the same time, it demands a higher level of negotiations. All these facts confirm that Israel wishes to push the Arab parties into the trap of concessions and to make them abandon their rights.

TISHRIN concludes: Time and again, Syria warned against separate deals and the formulas and settlements that harm the peace process. At the same time, Syria stressed that the Madrid Conference formula is the real and natural road to arrive at just and comprehensive peace.

Commentary on Peace Plan, National 'Interests'

JN0410175195 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1243 GMT 4 Oct 95

[Station commentary]

[FBIS Translated Text] Gentlemen: The history of international relations has not thus far known a clearer and more consistent position than the Syrian Arab position.

We can advise anyone who casts doubt on this fact to review President Hafiz al-Asad's statements which have embodied the Syrian position since the beginning of the Corrective Movement. We are confident that skeptics will not be able to find any contradiction or ambiguity in the consistent Syrian position.

Speaking at the UN rostrum yesterday, Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' reemphasized the Syrian position on the peace process. This position only accepts international legitimacy as a basis, and full rights as a demand.

Syria is aware of the huge magnitude of international changes. This, however, does not mean that Syria will relinquish the national, ethical, and militant values in which it believes. A right is a right, and it cannot become null and void. Moreover, equality cannot become hegemony, and occupation cannot enjoy legitimacy.

Syria has frequently stressed that the destiny of peace will be determined in accordance with international legitimacy and the UN resolutions, and not in accordance with the Israeli desires and ambitions.

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

Israel's refusal to comply with international legitimacy and its resolutions does not only defy the Arabs but also the whole international community. The past four years proved that the Israeli rulers do not seek a just and comprehensive peace which will end the conflict, occupation, and Israeli settlements and provide security and stability for all. These rulers want a type of peace that will shackle the other party and give the Israelis a free hand regarding the region's destiny.

Syria, however, will not sign an agreement which is not in harmony with international legitimacy and its resolutions because Syria refuses to keep the seeds of tension and conflict.

Syria went to the Madrid conference to achieve a just and comprehensive peace based on the Security Council resolutions, the land-for-peace principle, and the assurances given by the U.S. Administration which does not approve of annexing one inch of the Golan that was occupied in 1967.

Syria will continue to adhere to these bases and struggle for peace as its strategic option. It believes that the departure from these bases by some Arab parties will not affect their strength which is derived from justice, legitimacy, and international consensus that is desirous of a just and comprehensive peace.

Therefore, the U.S. cosponsor should strongly adhere to these bases and work for removing the obstacles Israel is placing on the path of achieving a just and comprehensive peace. The Syrian position is clear and consistent and is in harmony—to the extent of agreement—with international legitimacy and its resolutions.

Commitment to international legitimacy is the real criterion for anyone who wants peace. Departure from international legitimacy, circumventing it, or showing leniency toward such attempts will not serve peace. Syria did not obstruct the agreements Israel signed with some Arab parties. This, however, does not mean that Syria will stand idly by if these agreements are used to undermine Syria's interests and rights.

A deceitful peace will not be approved by any Syrian citizen because Syria is strong with its people, its positions, and its Arab nation as well as with the Muslims and all peoples which believe in rights, justice, and peace.

Party Command Member on Oct War Anniversary

JN0410163095 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0545 GMT 4 Oct 95

[From the press review]

[FBIS Translated Text] Comrade Dr. Ahmad Durgham, member of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party Regional Command, today writes an AL-BA'TH editorial under the headline "What Remained of October War?"

Durgham says: It seems to me that this question is legitimate and important at this stage; 22 years after the October War. During this time span, major and deep changes occurred in our ethics, mind, and ideas. A new reality was shaped and is now rapidly covering the world. Our Arab world saw part of these changes, thus making this question a legitimate one as far as the present Arab individual is concerned.

He adds: The current state of affairs makes it imperative to ask such a question: What remained of the October War? The more distant those great days in the Arab nation's history become, the days of October 1973, the clearer the facts and great results of that war become to us?

Comrade Ahmad Durgham says: First, the October War was a step to end a painful condition in which our Arab masses lived after the 1967 setback, and it was a step to restore their confidence.

Second, in the October War, our people demonstrated their national unity at its best.

Third, the defeated army of 1967 moved to the positions of victory in 1973 and destroyed the myth of the invincible army.

Fourth, the October War preserved the realistic presence of the Arab nation, whose enemies are working these days to annul this presence and the nation's national identity.

Fifth, the October War changed and transformed the concept of the State of Israel. October's victories placed Israel in its specific reality. The October War cut the Zionist entity down to size and made Israel accept withdrawal from this or that part of the Arab territory. However, Israel is now circumventing the results of the October War in the absence of Arab solidarity.

Sixth, our people recall the positions adopted by the friendly peoples who supported us and provided us with strength and the factors needed to achieve victory.

Seventh, the October war taught us that the people constitute an undefeated, enormous force if they show determination to achieve victory.

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

Comrade Durgham concludes by citing the statement made by leader Hafiz al-Asad on the October War. He said: History will judge the October War. Undoubtedly, that judgment will be fair and appreciative of our people, the Arab nation, and of our heroes who achieved this great task, including those who were martyred and those who are still alive. I have no doubt that history will record that the October War has changed the course of history in this region and marked the beginning of a new era in the Arab nation's history which has its own characteristics and features. Chief among these characteristics and features is the crystallization of the Arab identity and the emergence of the Arab individual as he truly is, an individual who is equal to the other peoples who have made major steps on the path of progress and scientific advancement.

Press Calls For 'Rehabilitating' Peace Foundations

JN0510083795 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0550 GMT 5 Oct 95

[Press review]

[FBIS Translated Text] In an editorial on the 22d anniversary of the October war of liberation under the headline "Flame of Glory in October Sky," Lieutenant General Mustafa Talas, deputy commander in chief, deputy prime minister, and defense minister, writes in AL-BA'TH: Although 22 years have passed, the glorious October war has remained a bright chapter in our contemporary history. It shall remain so forever. This is because the war was a turning point in the Arab-Zionist conflict. The war will continue to be cherished by the Arab generations, and will drive them to reject partial agreements and separate solutions achieved at the expense of Arab rights. Victory is not impossible where there is a will.

Lt. Gen. Talas continues: The achievements scored by the Arabs in the October war prompted Zionist circles and their allies to redouble their efforts to do away with the honorable achievements of this war. The enemy and the forces behind it realized the importance of Arab solidarity and the effect of the pan-Arab character of the battle. Thus, they immediately made plans to break up Arab ranks and take on each Arab country individually. The purpose of this was to peddle a losing deal.

Lt. Gen Talas asserts that leader al-Asad alone was aware of this game. He exposed the dimensions of these plans, from Camp David to the Oslo corridors, to Wadi al-'Arabah, to Taba, and Washington.

Lt. Gen. Talas notes that leader al-Asad shall never abandon his firm national and pan-Arab stance that calls for a just and comprehensive peace that restores rights and ends occupation, injustice, and aggression.

Addressing the exemplary leader al-Asad, Lt. Gen. Talas says: On the anniversary of our glorious war, your Armed Forces and people send to you all their love and appreciation. History shall record that you are the only man who embodied our traits and pride. This is reminiscent of the days of Prophet Muhammad and his allies who achieved glory to our Arab nation.

AL-THAWRAH comments on the glorious anniversary of the October war of liberation, which marks the first Arab victory in their modern history. The paper says solidarity, coordination, and unity are important factors that helped the Arabs make this great historic achievement in October.

AL-THAWRAH asserts that Syria is currently struggling for a just and comprehensive peace with the same capability and efficiency by which it fought the October war. As President al-Asad said: While waging this struggle, we are mindful of current and future challenges. This requires that we all acquire more strength to overcome difficulties and achieve a just and comprehensive peace.

TISHRIN comments on Israel's intransigent position that rejects the achievement of a just and comprehensive peace in the region. The Syrian foreign minister is scheduled to meet the U.S. secretary of state in Washington today to discuss ways to advance the peace process on the Syrian track. This track is almost frozen as a result of Israel's recalcitrant stands and refusal to implement the resolutions of international legitimacy, particularly full withdrawal to the 4 June 1967 lines.

TISHRIN says Israel is responsible for the continued obstacles. Israel is trying to circumvent the relevant international resolutions. Syria has repeatedly called on the U.S. Administration to assume its responsibilities and fulfill its commitments vis-a-vis the land-for-peace exchange and the achievement of a just and comprehensive solution. Syria has also called on the international community to deter Israel, since Israel's challenge to the Security Council resolutions is a challenge to the entire international community.

TISHRIN points out that the Syrian foreign minister explained in his speech to the United Nations that the rulers of Israel are not working for a just and true peace. They want separate, irregular deals and settlements akin to the Oslo agreements, which do not have anything to do with peace. These agreements will cause further tension, suffering, and instability in the region.

The paper concludes: Syria is eager to achieve a just and comprehensive peace in the Middle East.

In another commentary under the headline "Return To the Foundations," AL-THAWRAH asks the U.S. Ad-

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

ministration to make more efforts to change the intransigent Israeli position that rejects the establishment of a just and comprehensive peace.

The paper stresses that rehabilitating the foundations of peace is the only way to achieve a just, comprehensive, and honorable peace. This peace would return all rights and lands to their owners and provide security for all.

Europe-Based Arabic-Language Newspaper Attacked

JN0510073595 Damascus AL-THAWRAH in Arabic 12 Sep 95 p 8

[People's Talk" column by Bassam Ja'arah: "The Fig Leaf That Fell"]

[FBIS Translated Text] It appears that the Western news media, which once specialized in attacking Syria on issues relating to its sources of finance, have delegated part of this task to the Arab news media that publish in the West.

It is not enough for a newspaper published in Arabic to be considered an Arab paper. The identity of any paper is based on the positions it adopts and propagates. A paper that is being used to attack the Arabs and their causes cannot be considered an Arab paper, but simply a paper which publishes in Arabic.

A paper which publishes in Arabic in a certain European capital has been compelled recently to remove the fig leaf which, it thinks, is hiding its secret, and play in the open. This paper has begun saying what it wants to say openly without embellishments or any sense of shame. The main thing as far as we are concerned is that this paper has begun attacking Syrian political and economic decisions with the ultimate goal of undermining Syria.

Yesterday's issue of this paper published two reports on the Syrian economic situation containing lies and fallacies that were intended to undermine Syria and its economy. On the first page of this paper's economic supplement, a report says that Syria's debts to the World Bank amount to $4.2 billion, when these debts are not more than one-tenth of that figure. Syria's debts to the bank are far below those of any state in the world. On the second page of the supplement, the paper's editor says that the 1,338 firms licensed under Investment Law No. 10 have not produced any results, since the percentage execution of these firms is not more than 30 percent at best, and that some of these firms have gone for projects which make quick profit.

Of course, the report is packed with lies and fallacies. The report writer knows only too well the nature and size of the projects which have been licensed under Law No. 10. He knows that a fairly good percentage of these big firms meet strategic needs and their production has entered the local and world markets. In fact, the World Health Organization buys medicines for its employees from Syrian drug firms which have been licensed under Law No. 10.

The poison does not only drip from the paper's economic supplement, but also from every page, news report, and comment. Thus, we do not believe that the matter deserves more than just a comment. The fig leaf fell yesterday, but its owners fell long before that.

Enhancing Competitiveness of Public Sector Viewed

JN0510075695 Damascus AL-THAWRAH in Arabic 9 Sep 95 p 8

["People's Talk" column by As'ad 'Abbud: "They Need Not Fear"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Economic reform, open-door policy, privatization, market economy, and such other cliches have dominated the world economy over the past decade and led to a big diminution, if not the complete disappearance of, in most cases, the role of the state in economic investment and the rise of the private sector to the status it now occupies in the world; a status which is expected to grow even higher.

Regardless of our attitude to them, reform, open-door policy, and privatization differ only in name, but the purport is one; they all seek, above everything else, to create competition between the different economic sectors in order to achieve steady growth for the benefit of the people as a whole. I say that regardless of the position taken by any one of us, market economy theorists maintain that if privatization means monopoly and avoiding competition, then the monopoly of the public sector is better!! Therefore, priority goes to competition.

In our country, Syria, there is a special experiment. While we have not kept aloof from the prevailing economic trend in the world, we have not been carried away by its current. We left the door wide open for the private sector to grow and expand so it could become a big, productive, and competitive sector, but we also did not do away with the public sector.

Actually, the idea of doing away with the public sector is a betrayal by the advocates of reform, open-door policy, and market economy of their own basic principles which call for competition!! Why do they not accept competition between the different sectors?! Why do they not at least allow the public sector to compete as a matter of principle, and then see it disappear through competition, according to their strategy.

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

At any rate, we still stick to our position and experiment, which is: economic pluralism, or giving everyone the chance to build the homeland according to his own potential, or the ability of the homeland to make room for all efforts, etc.

We say: Let us think about competition. Let us think about a public sector that can compete. Let us liberate this sector until it is able to compete according on the best terms. Let us cancel any measure seeking to protect those establishments which cannot compete, and we will find that the public sector can compete without fear.

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

India

Article Examines 'Puzzling Paradox' in U.S. Ties

BK0210082695 Calcutta THE TELEGRAPH in English 29 Sep 95 p 12

[Report by Arvind Kala: "Us and Them: The View the US is hostile to India is self defeating paranoia"]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] There is a puzzling paradox about India's relations with the United States. The paradox is that the fondness of Indians for the US is not reflected in India's foreign policy. Young Indians love comics, books, music and movies produced in the US. Indians make every possible effort to join US universities and, if possible, to reside in the US. But successive Indian governments have always rallied against the US on some pretext or other. Anti-US fulminations have been considered proof of patriotism in India, particularly in Marxist dominated West Bengal.

The irony is that at India's hour of greatest need, the US backed it to the hilt. Washington gave India unwavering support during India's 1962 war with China when Indian troops were at the receiving end. Public memory is short and not many people care to remember that the US condemned China for its "naked aggression" and flew weapons worth $5 million—a large sum 33 years ago—to India. It also sent 12 transport planes to ferry Indian troops to battle zones. A US medical team arrived to advise the Indian army on problems of operations in cold weather. Some US troops actually stayed on in Ladakh's freezing winter to aid our soldiers. Considering all this, is it fair to accuse the US of working against India's interests?

Yet, the canard of Washington's anti India bias has persisted in India for 48 years. It has made the Indian government and Indian political leaders make the most absurd allegations against Washington. It is universally accepted Rajiv Gandhi was assassinated by the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam. But even a sober Politician like Atal Behari Vajpayee saw the Central Intelligence Agency's hand in the assassination. There was not a shred of evidence to support this accusation but Indian politicians smell the CIA everywhere.

In 1989 Subramaniam Swamy accused V.P. Singh of colluding with the CIA. In 1981 Maneka Gandhi accused 26 Indian journalists of being CIA agents. Indira Gandhi once remarked that she did not need to prove the CIA was active in India, it was up to the CIA to prove it was not. Anti-US fulminations such as these were so common that US policy makers once joked India would even blame the US for the failure of its monsoon.

Anti-US paranoia reached its peak in the Sixties and Seventies. In those days, India's media pundits would speculate that the US was fuelling inflation in India by releasing the millions of rupees it held in PL480 funds. The irony is that the US gifted us this sum, amounting to Rs [rupees] 14 billion, by writing out the largest ever cheque in history—a fact mentioned in the "Guinness Book of World Records".

The paranoia carried on into the Eighties. Nine years ago, Ram Swaroop, a businessman based in New Delhi, was arrested for allegedly passing secrets to US diplomats. The US embassy denied it had anything to do with Swaroop. Sure enough, its stand was vindicated when a court pronounced Swaroop innocent and acquitted him.

Anti-US paranoia has often prompted the Indian government to take steps which border on the ridiculous. In 1967, for instance, R. Tavel, a playwright from the US, staged a play titled "Indira Gandhi's Daring Device" in the US. The Indian government felt it showed Indira Gandhi in a poor light and the then foreign minister, M.C. Chagla, issued a statement warning that further staging of the play would hurt Indo-US ties. It was equivalent to Alyque Padamsee or Shyam Benegal doing a play on Bill Clinton and the US, government objecting to it. Can bilateral relations become this absurd?

India's anti-US posturing can be attributed to two factors. These are US support for a plebiscite in Kashmir and the close cooperation between the US and Pakistan. It is unfair to blame the US for the plebiscite. Jawaharlal Nehru agreed to holding one under the supervision of the United Nations. So when Washington kept urging a plebiscite throughout the Fifties, it was only pressing for a course of action Nehru himself had approved. Yet this was seen as a betrayal.

The other sore point, the close military ties between Pakistan and the US should not have bothered us at all. After all, the US could have nursed a similar grievance. India was closely allied to its greatest enemy, the former Soviet Union. But only the US- Pakistan nexus was evident to India, so blinding was its enmity towards Pakistan.

The reality is that during the Cold War decades, the US was neither pro Pakistan nor pro-India. It was anti Moscow. Pakistan proved a convenient bulwark against communism since it rested at the foot of the Soviet Union. The US was strictly neutral when India and Pakistan fought two brief wars in 1947-48 and in 1965.

US policy certainly tilted against India in 1971-72 during the Bangladesh war, when the then US president Richard Nixon, backed Pakistan and even ordered the US navy's seventh fleet into the Bay of Bengal. But his

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

action has to be seen in the context of the cold war. So worried was the US about communism extending its reach worldwide that it did not want its ally, Pakistan, to be weakened by its eastern half breaking away.

While it cannot be denied the US action went against India's interests, India's politicians, too, must own up to having acted against India's interests. For instance, India denounced the US aggression against Vietnam but did not condemn the Soviet invasion of Afghanistan, which was just as indefensible.

Nor did India express support for the US-led allied military action against the Iraqi dictator, Saddam Husayn during the Kuwait war, even though Iraq's invasion of Kuwait was unforgivable. And at every world forum, India opposes US efforts at nuclear disarmament.

There is nothing wrong with nations holding different views. But viewing the US as being hostile to India is a distorted perspective we must discard.

Minister's Activities at UN Headquarters Reported

BK0410094195 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0830 GMT 4 Oct 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The external affairs minister, Mr. Pranab Mukherjee, has asserted that it is Pakistan, not India, which did not implement the UN resolutions on Kashmir by refusing to withdraw its forces from the occupied territories. Addressing newsmen at the UN Headquarters yesterday, Mr. Mukherjee said that the resolution of the world body clearly stated that both the Pakistani Army and the tribals supported by it, who had invaded Kashmir in 1947, must withdraw before follow-up action can be taken.

Referring to the situation in Jammu and Kashmir, he expressed the hope that it would be possible to hold elections in the state before winter sets in. He pointed out that preliminary measures like revision of electoral rolls and delimitation of constituencies have already been undertaken. He said negotiations are also on with various political parties over the conduct of polls in the state.

Mr. Mukherjee also held discussions with the United Nations secretary general, Dr. Butrus Butrus-Ghali, on international issues. The two also discussed reform of the United Nations. During their half an hour meeting, Mr. Mukherjee explained India's position on various questions.

Mr. Mukherjee also had talks with the foreign minister of Singapore, Mr. S. Jayakumar, and hosted a lunch for SAARC [South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation] ministers.

Party Spokesmen Comment on Gujarat Developments

BK0410130195 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1230 GMT 4 Oct 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The BJP [Bharatiya Janata Party] MLA's [members of legislative assembly] from Gujarat will meet on Friday [6 October] to work out the strategy for the trial of strength of the Kashubhai Patel ministry the next day. The BJP party spokesman, Mr. K.L. Sharma, told newspersons in New Delhi today that there is no chance of a change in the leadership of the Gujarat legislature party. The party Central Parliamentary Board, after its meeting in New Delhi today, asked its MLA's to foil what it called attempts by the opposition to subvert the people's mandate in the state.

The Congress-I spokesman, Mr. V.N. Gadgil, said in New Delhi today that his party will assess all the options before taking a decision on the Gujarat developments. He refuted the charge that the Congress-I is trying to destabilize the BJP government in the state. Mr. Gadgil said the BJP is searching for an excuse and alibi to cover its inability to avoid the factional fight in the state party unit. Replying to a question on whether the Congress-I will vote in favor of the Keshubhai Patel government or oppose it in the trial of strength in the assembly, Mr. Gadgil said the party is yet to take a decision.

Rebel Leader Vows To Sabotage Kashmir Elections

BK2809123695 Hong Kong AFP in English 1159 GMT 28 Sep 95

[Report by M.R. Narayan Swamy]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] SRINAGAR, India, Sept 28 (AFP) — The military commander of Kashmir's leading pro-independence group vowed Thursday [28 September] to sabotage Indian-sponsored legislative elections in the northern Indian state.

Bashrat Raza of the Jammu and Kashmir Liberation Front (JKLF) asserted at a news conference at a hideout here that the Kashmiri people would not take part in an Indian-organised ballot to pick a state government.

"Elections can never take place here," said Raza, 30, speaking with his face masked at a house near Kashmir's holiest Hazratbal mosque. He was ringed by some 30 guerrillas armed with AK-47 assault rifles, bazookas and grenades.

"Those who feel elections can take place here are living in a fool's paradise," he added.

Raza's comments came ahead of the vist to Kashmir on Friday by Indian deputy election commissioner M.S.

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

Gill to study the possibility of holding elections to the Kashmir legislature for the first time since 1987.

"Ninety-five percent of (Kashmiris) are for independence" from India, added Masood Khan, Raza's deputy. "Gill will be able to judge for himself if people here want elections or not."

Kashmir is currently under the direct administration of the central government in New Delhi.

Raza also claimed that his men had attacked Indian security forces at more than 20 places across the Kashmir Valley on Thursday to mark the end of the unilateral ceasefire declared by the rival JKLF headed by Yasin Malik.

Details of the attack were not immediately available.

A bomb explosion rocked the heart of Srinagar soon after the press conference. No one was, however, injured in the blast which temporarily disrupted traffic.

"We have shattered the ceasefire" declared by Malik after his release from an Indian prison in May 1994, Raza said. "We have proved that no one will be allowed to come to an agreement with India.

"We will never talk to the Indian government," he added. "We want freedom (from India)."

The JKLF, founded in 1966, split last week after Malik expelled the group's Pakistan-based chairman Amanullah Khan. Khan had a day earlier ousted Malik and named Srinagar-based Shabir Siddiqi as the JKLF's new president.

More than 12,000 people have been killed since 1989 in a bloody Moslem separatist in Kashmir, Inida's only Moslem-majority state.

The JKLF seeks independence for the whole of Kashmir, now divided between India and Pakistan. Most of the other guerrilla groups want Indian Kashmir to merge with Pakistan.

Official's 'Information' Indicates Hostages Safe

BK0310155095 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1530 GMT 3 Oct 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The additional chief secretary of Jammu and Kashmir, Mr. S.S. Billoria, said that all the four foreign tourists abducted and held hostage by militant outfit Al-Faran are safe. Mr. Billoria told newsmen in Srinagar today that though there is no formal contact with the abductors for the last 14 days, he has information about the safety of the hostages. Mr. Billoria said the government is utilizing all channels to ensure the safe release of the foreign tourists. The tourists were abducted from Pahalgam area on the 4th and 8th of July.

'Notorious Militant' Reportedly Killed in Kashmir

BK0410155295 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1530 GMT 4 Oct 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] In Kashmir Valley, a notorious militant, Manzoor Ahmad Bhat, was shot dead by security forces at Tregam near the Line of Control today. An official spokesman said in Srinagar that elsewhere in the valley, four militants were killed and 12 apprehended. In Anantnag, over 5,000 people took out a procession against the militants and shouted anti-Pakistan and anti-militant slogans. They were protesting against the killing of a medical attendant, Mohammad Shafi Sheikh, who was kidnapped by an outfit yesterday. His body was found today.

Article Views Impact of Sonia Gandhi Upon Rao

95AS0477A Varanasi AJ in Hindi 28 Aug 95 p 6

[Article by Shashi Shekhar: "Sonia Gandhi's Hand Revealed"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Sonia Gandhi has signalled her intentions in Amethi. With this, [formerly] secret mysteries began unfolding. Sonia has had a special place in political and social life due to her silence. When Rajiv Gandhi was in power she never played the role of the administration's spokesperson. She has habitually kept a low profile. Now destiny compels her, for the first time, to be in the forefront.

[Sonia Gandhi is] compelled, because she knows that time does not wait for anyone. It can destroy the greatest. During Rajiv's early days when the media courted him, it was difficult to explain to the children that he is not the same "Gandhi" about whom they read in their text books. The text book Gandhi was Mohandas Karamchand Gandhi. Similarly, initially Rajiv faced the problems emerging from his mother's name Indira Gandhi. Whether it was internal politics or international diplomacy he was always compared with Indira Gandhi, and it is obvious he always ranked lower. His media manager always pleaded with the media not to compare Rajiv with Indira Gandhi. It is different matter that he could have never been named the prime minister if he was not Indira Gandhi's son. It was just like when Indira Gandhi, during her first days, was compared with Jawaharlal Nehru. Later she proved so effective that people forgot Jawaharlal Nehru. But effectiveness could not defeat death. It is true that in history leaders change roles and that gives birth to new perspectives. Sonia Gandhi faces a similar problem.

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

During the last four and a quarter years she has barely maintained her dignity. In the beginning Prime Minister Narashima Rao visited her practically every month. This sent a message to the average party member that Sonia was the real heir to both the party and the power. If it was not true then why was it necessary for the prime minister and the party chief to visit her? To begin with Arjun Singh was dismayed with Rao's prime ministership, and he was active in his own maneuvering. He also regularly visited 10 Janpath. This opened the way for him to declare that he had Soniaji's blessings. Later or sooner these blessings would open the door for him to power. When he did not succeed he decided to revolt. Both before and after this revolt he maintained that he has Sonia Gandhi's support.

The information that trickled out also confirmed that Sonia Gandhi herself wants to control the political scene from behind the curtain. By that time, all the gossip that came out of 10 Janpath reached the newspapers and was blown out of proportion, It was assumed that she did not want to play a role in active politics. This, when every foreign dignitary visited her and the prime minister himself called upon her. This, while the unsatisfied party faction did things in her name and she enjoyed all the perks of the power. However, these opposing political actions couldn't last for long. The dreadful political facts demand openness. Sonia Gandhi willingly or unwillingly had to fulfill this demand. If she had not done so, later or sooner her power source would have dried up.

As I earlier related, Rajiv had made a star out of Indira Gandhi, and Indira had made Jawaharlal Nehru a star of the past. This similarity also applies to Sonia Gandhi. If she does not become active now then she will have missed the boat. During his four and a quarter years [in power], Rao may not have done anything but he surely has successfully kept Rajiv Gandhi in a closet. He is now experiencing a phenomena [in which he himself] may become a timeless leader. There is no mention of Rajiv Gandhi on Doordarshan, private channels or in English and regional language newspapers. Obviously it is a planned effort to wipe out Rajiv from the minds of the people. If Rajiv becomes out of sight out of mind, who then will care about Sonia Gandhi? The truth is that she is a daughter in-law of the Nehru-Gandhi family. If the glamour attached to this families fades away, Sonia will automatically disappear. Both Rao and Arjun Singh recognize this fact.

That is why each dealt with her differently in their own ways. Rao told her that "both the party and the power belongs to you. I will relinquish either or both whenever you desire." This appears similar to the epic episode of Bharat ruling Ayodhya with Rama's shoes on the throne. That was Satyug [the age of righteousness]. Upon his return to Ayodhya Rama found Bharat waiting on the doorsteps in the hope that Rama would relieve him of the vicious cycle of power. Such stories can simply be told in Kalyug [the age of unenlightenment]. No one intends to give up power or has any such intentions. If it had to happen why did not Rao adhere to Sonia's direction at the time when Arjun Singh and Narayan Dutt Tiwari convened their convention in New Delhi and it was hoped that the Congress could remain united. It is well known that right before the convention, Sonia had urged Rao to persuade Arjun Singh and Tiwari to maintain Party unity. But Rao did not agree. This angered Sonia. It is clear that both Arjun Singh and Tiwari tried to ignite the issue. Arjun Singh has always argued that Sonia Gandhi should assume the Party leadership so that the Party [can] win a majority in the next elections.

Sonia herself realizes that her non-participation at this time will close all future opportunities for her. By the time of the next elections people will either forget about Rajiv or his name will become a passing reference. The glamour of his name can only be cashed in on during these elections. Sonia has started to act. Her allegation that the government has eased up on the Rajiv murder case will bring her enough sympathy from throughout the country. It is a different matter that this allegation has no substance in it. Every one knows the slow progress of the Indian judicial process. On top of this, the principal suspect of this case, Prabhakaran, has an international reputation of being the most barbarious terrorist in the world. It is not easy to arrest him. In addition, he is not a citizen of India and has Sri Lankan citizenship. The government has requested his extradition but it is not necessary to say that it is only a show. Most of the people involved in this case have already been killed. It should be remembered that though the murderers of Mahatma Gandhi and Indira Gandhi were captured at the scene, it took over five years to get them convicted. Our voters even today are very sentimental, and the assertions of a widow that the government is not exercising rigor in capturing the murderers of her husband will certainly move them.

Sonia Gandhi, in openly accusing Rao, has initiated the offensive but she is silent on the question of whether she herself and her children will participate in politics. She is perhaps waiting for a reaction from the Congress legislators and other prominent persons. If she senses favorable winds she will act without hesitation. Initial results seem to endorse her. At one time Madhya Pradesh Chief Minister Digvijay Singh was considered very close to Arjun Singh. After Arjun Singh's separation from Congress (I) he maintained his

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

non-aligned image intact, and did not let Rao harm Singh. But his joining Sonia in Amethi clearly signifies that he accepts the thinking of an average member of Congress that Sonia will attract a hundred times more votes in the elections then Rao. In addition, last Friday's [25 August] uproar in the Lok Sabha amply demonstrates that opposition to Rao has begun.

Poor Rao loses two issues for each one that he accomplishes. Nandmuir Tarak Ramarao who by winning the election in Andhra Pradesh had disgraced Rao has now been defeated in [Telegu Desam] internal politics. His son-in-law Chandrababu Naidu has dislodged him. What else can be more pleasing for Rao? But Sonia's trip to Amethi has ruined his mirth. Perhaps he may have to face the same situation he faced four and a half years ago. Then he was considering relinquishing his political aspirations and retiring in Hyderabad. It was the twist of his destiny that made him prime minister. At that time, he was willingly renouncing politics but it is possible that now he may be compelled to do so.

Article Analyzes Sonia Gandhi's Political Plans

95ASO476A Jalandhar PUNJAB KESARI in Hindi 2 Sept 95 p 4

[Article by Tavlin Singh: "Is Sonia Gandhi Entertaining the Dream of Being India's Queen?"]

[FBIS Translated Text] I visited Amethi some weeks before Mrs. Sonia Gandhi's first political rally. I had not gone there to estimate the public's feelings toward India's first ruling family but having entered their own castle, I found the temptation irrestible. Therefore during the journey I prepared a list of questions. First, we stopped at a cafe on the main street of Raibareili. There was a shop full of sweets in a cafe that was decorated in Bombay cinema style neon signs. The cafe was full of local customers listening to Hindi songs. I began my survey by talking to the youngish looking owner of the shop. He was upper caste as he had a tilak on his forehead.

Directly coming to the subject I enquired "Do people still remember Indira Gandhi with love and admiration?" His face lighted up with the question. He said "Yes, even now every one remembers her. Just like when she represented this area, it was a V.I.P. electoral center. All of us benefitted from it." While the shopkeeper was giving his answer a tall traffic policeman interrupted us. He was listening to our conversation very intently. He said "Only those who benefitted remember her, not everyone else. I asked him for his caste. I knew the answer but he confirmed it, he was a Harijan (Untouchable). He said that so far as his society is concerned, they never benefitted from her rule. My [next] question was if he benefitted now when the Chief minister of Uttar Pradesh is a Harijan. He answered it is difficult to tell so soon, but they benefitted from the rule of Mulayam Singh. He said "We have benefitted from the rule of Mulayam Singh in terms of discrimination, in the old days we could not enter a restaurant like today. And if we entered, we were physically thrown out beyond the gate. Now we can sit and eat with everyone." The restaurant owner with the tilak made a face but said nothing.

The other day we stopped in a small, peaceful town called Kuriya in Amethi district. This town is away from the main highways. I continued my inquiry. This time my conversation was with farmers who were from the backward castes. Their opinion was Amethi was completely different when it was a V.I.P. district. How can they say that now when there is no electricity in their town? One replied, "Rajiv had promised that all other towns would receive electricity after the main cities got electricity. It was our turn but no development took place [under post-Gandhi rule]. Therefore everyone here wishes someone from the family would represent us."

We have seen Mrs. Sonia Gandhi and her daughter Priyanka receiving adoration from a large crowd of admirers. However, in spite of this picture, the reality is quite different. Their popularity depends upon their ability to deliver. Who and what they are, does not carry much meaning. In the words of a minister in New Delhi "it is a straight trade, you deliver our development projects and we vote for you."

This does not mean that the Gandhi Charisma does not work at all. However, vote trading and caste politics has blunted the edge of that sword. The differences between castes have become so defined in Uttar Pradesh that caste is the only matter that defines how one votes. Caste has always been important in this state. However, recently one can notice an aggressive form of casteism and a powerful votebank (or different votebanks) of the backward castes becoming visible. It is no longer in the hands of the Congress. If the above is true, you can ask the obvious question how come there is such a crowd received Sonia and her unofficial entourage?

This question is a hot topic of discussion in the political circles in New Delhi. Naturally, there are different answers. Some say Sonia is capable of attracting people. Others are saying the family name is the main reason. Some people are saying that Maneka Gandhi also attracted similar crowds in Amethi but she could not convert them into votes when she ran against her brother-in law Rajiv Gandhi.

There are different reactions to Sonia's first political address also. The Congress Party is divided and concerned

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

about what Sonia is trying to prove by visiting Amethi. Also, what is the meaning of attacking the Prime Minister openly? Those close to her explain it by saying she revealed in public what she has been saying in private conversations for some time. It is clear that the killers of her husband have not been arrested. However her close circles cannot explain her charge that the principles that her family fought for are being ignored. She did not name the Prime Minister. But this charge was a part of her attack on the government and the Prime Minister who is supposed to be responsible for ignoring these principles.

One question that no one is able to answer is why did she chose this time to attack her own elected Prime Minister? Again her close circles are saying that she is unhappy about many things. With respect to Bofors, the Government ministers keep up the interest by making some comments uncovering small secrets. The name of her friend Octovio Quatrocchi is mentioned in regards to Boffors. Sonia is also unhappy about the fact that Mr Rao did not pay attention to her appeal for unity in the party.

One thing is certain, Sonia has decided to come out from behind the screen. Like the Maharanis of the Mughal times, we had noticed only a few flashes of her power from behind the curtains till now. Now, by directly challenging the prime minister she has made it clear that she is also an important power center and it would be better if the Prime Minister understands it.

The rebel group that has separated from the Congress believes that she is with them. We have heard the happy cries from Mr. Arjun Singh and Mr. N.D. Tiwari "Our feelings have been vindicated" or "Our heads are bowed in shame." However, it is not clear that Sonia wants to accept their leadership. Reports coming from Amethi show that she treated all the present political leaders like untouchables. People like Mr. Jitendra Prasad, who were trusted lieutenants of the Prime Minister were treated like more untouchables than the rest. He was not allowed to sit anywhere near Sonia's platform and cast shadows on the event. All of them were seated in the so called V.I.P. section, away from the platform. What is the meaning of all this? Is it that the queen of India is now trying to be a political leader in India?

Iran

Canadian Official: U.S. Trade Embargo Not Working

LD0410230795 Tehran IRNA in English
2047 GMT 4 Oct 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tehran, Oct 4 (IRNA) — Canadian Embassy commercial counsellor in Tehran, George H. Rassam said on Wednesday [3 October] the U.S. trade embargo on Iran did not work and no country followed the U.S. example except for Israel.

Speaking on Canada's National Day at Tehran's International Trade Fair, he said Canadian commercial policy is independent from the U.S. and Canada is interested, as opposed to the U.S., to provide Iran with the advanced technological know-how.

Rassam said Canadian commodities are cheaper than that of the U.S. and Europe.

He said, "exports of Canadian commodities are taking place through guarantee of the central insurance company and we hope that other Iranian banks in addition to the Central Bank of Iran (CBI) would open up letters of credit."

On Iranian debts to Canada, he said Iran has paid off all that it owed to Canada, an amount which stood at dlrs. 70-80 million.

Rassam said Canadian exports to Iran stood at dlrs. 445 [word indistinct] 20 1994. The figure has reached dlrs. 300 million in the first half of the current year.

Iran has exported dlrs. 117 million worth of merchandise to Canada in the same period this year.

He said Iran had taken part in the trade fair in Toronto in the past two years and it would serve to boost Iranian exports to Canada.

"12 Canadian companies have attended Tehran's International Trade Fair and we hope that trade exchange between Iran and Canada Would expand," he added.

Daily Warns Israel on Harming National Interests

LD0410122795 Tehran IRNA in English
1115 GMT 4 Oct 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tehran, Oct. 4, IRNA — Israelis should bear in mind that Iran, unlike Iraq, would turn out to be a "Wasp's nest." The repercussion of a slightest damage to Iranian interests would seriously jeopardize the Israeli interests throughout the world, wrote TEHRAN TIMES here Wednesday [4 October].

The English-language paper made the remark in its editorial dealing with the latest statement of the would be Israeli air force chief, General Eytan Ben Eliyahu, who said Israel could "punish" states which were not necessarily on its borders.

"First of all, Israel is neither an international judge nor an international executive body," said the paper adding, "hence, to talk of punishing others, stems from the

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

crass folly of Israeli leaders and their utter defiance of international rules and regulations."

It stressed "Iran is not only capable of destroying any target deep inside Israel, but it can also endanger Israeli interests in any part of the world if the Israelis commit a blunder by attacking Iran. Israel will cut off its nose to spite its face," warned the editorial.

IRGC Head Discusses National Defense, Nuclear Arms

NC0410183695 Tehran RESALAT in Persian 24 Sep 95 p 4

["Text" of "exclusive" interview with Major General Mohsen Reza'i, IRGC general commander, by unidentified correspondent "during Holy Defense Week"; place not given]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] [RESALAT] Major General Reza'i, the first question is what should be done to safeguard the gains of the eight years of Holy Defense? Have the measures taken thus far been sufficient?

[Reza'i] The most important step that we should take in order to safeguard the values of the Holy Defense is acquaint the people, especially the younger generation, with the war and the Holy Defense. The younger generation probably constitutes about 50 percent of the population. When the war ended, 50 percent of the population was not more than 14-15 years old. So we can say that more than 50 percent of our population does not have a clear picture of the war; and in the coming years this percentage will increase even more. Therefore, the most important pressing issue is to acquaint the young generation with the war. [passage omitted]

Another important measure is to produce films and to publish books and textbooks for schools, high schools, and universities where, unfortunately, there is a great vacuum in relation to this topic. We can provide adequate information about the war by publishing textbooks. We want the officials in the Ministries of Education and Higher Education to take the lead in this field and to strive to fill this vacuum.

It is not right for us to refer to ancient history in our textbooks and not have the least bit of information about the [Iran-Iraq] war and its great achievements.

[RESALAT] What proposals do you have for preserving the basijis' morale; of course, this is in view of the problems that the basijis have been facing since the war ended?

[Reza'i] Basically speaking, there have always been two viewpoints in our movement. The first is that we should first build the human beings in order to shape society, and that we should not embark on any other projects until we do so

The second view is the one His Eminence the Imam took when he said that we should first begin the movement to build the people, and that it is with the help of the revolution that men are built. [passage omitted]

But a more important question is what do we want to do with our young generation now and in the future? Do we want to train new basijis? I do not think that the old basijis should be replaced. The answer to both questions is that the movement should be kept going and that the revolution should continue. But in what form? We do not have a war now. We do not have the shah's regime, and our country is not under foreign occupation, that would make us want to build a revolutionary young generation with the help of a movement or the military.

But actually there is a war going on—a war which is neither political, in the sense that the regime in Iran is opposing the people, nor is it military in nature. It is a cultural and economic war. The United States is acting on the international scene with all its might and is trying to block our country's economic success. Are economic sanctions not war? Is our confrontation with this economic war a movement and a revolution? What should the morale and spirit of our youths and our workers be when they go to work? Should they only think of how to make a living and how to achieve a comfortable life?

During the war, all our propaganda organs spoke about the war. Are they now being used to propagandize the economic movement? Actually, there is very little going on in this respect; our main slogan is being mixed in with other slogans. But no matter how sacred the welfare of the society is, it should not overshadow the main slogan. [passage omitted]

The same applies to culture. Today the acquisition of scientific knowledge from the outside world is valuable. But the danger is that we will abandon our cultural efforts in order to acquire world scientific known-how, and thus we will give the impression that our country only takes culture from abroad rather than creating its own culture. But Islamic and Iranian culture and civilization have been among the world's major civilizations and cultures throughout history. Therefore, I think that we should get a good understand of the major slogan and repeat it; and that by continuing our movement and revolution, not only will the past forces maintain their dynamism and remain alive, but the future and present young generation, too, will join the ranks of the revolutionaries and acquire the basiji spirit. [passage omitted]

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

[RESALAT] In view of your long record on the battlefields, how do you assess Iran's military capabilities? If there were heavy attacks like the ones of 30 Shahrivar 1359 [21 September 1980] against our country today, would we be ready to defend ourselves?

[Reza'i] Our country has higher readiness now than it did then. Now we consider the 30 Shahrivar 1359 assault to have been of the simplest kind that we could encounter. Not only can we resist that magnitude of threat, we have even prepared to counter more serious threats.

We are currently taking a more important step: transitioning from being able to triumph to being able to deter. Previously we concentrated on our ability to conquer and repulse the enemy in the event of war. But now we are trying to prevent any war from occurring—something much better and greater than conquering the enemy. It is true that we will defeat the enemy. But when the enemy occupies our territory, destroys our land and our economic capabilities, even if we oust them we will still have suffered heavy losses. Therefore, today we are striving to achieve a deterrent capability.

Of course, we do not want to move toward strategic weapons; and the Western propaganda that Iran is trying to acquire nuclear weapons is an outright lie. But we are trying to create an 'Ashura force that will actually be a rapid reaction force. We have in mind the creation of an organized force with modern equipment that will be able to deploy with lightning speed wherever we want. Such an immense force would be equivalent to a strategic and deterrent force. The 'Ashura maneuvers were the first exercises of this force; and they were successful, thank God.

[RESALAT] Considering the recent changes that have taken place in the Iraqi regime, how do you assess the future of that country?

[Reza'i] The recent incidents in Iraq showed that the Americans are pursuing two parallel approaches in Iraq. One is a movement to overthrow Saddam, and the other is an attempt to exploit him. Exploiting Saddam means getting as many concessions as possible from him. Not a day passes without some concession at the expense of the Iraqi people. They have taken control of everything—from arms to the Iraq's existing capabilities—and are putting economic and political pressure on the Iraqi people. Sometimes they even consider dismembering Iraq; they are taking advantage of the critical situation in Iraq as much as possible.

But the Americans also think that incidents may take place in Iraq that will stop their current exploitation of the situation. Aside from their illegitimate exploitation, they are forming groups and encouraging processes for replacing Saddam—of course processes that will make only minimal changes since they feel that they will have achieved most of their objectives with the help of Saddam's regime anyway. It is an matter of face for the Americans to eliminate Saddam. It is unlikely that they will attempt any purge before they push Saddam aside. Therefore, the Americans are exploiting the situation while simultaneously thinking of ways to replace Saddam, and they are pursuing these two approaches in parallel. Once they get what they want and are through exploiting him, they will topple Saddam. [passage omitted]

The thing is that the Americans are worried that if the current situation deteriorates they may lose all opportunity to pursue their illegitimate objectives. Therefore, they will exploit the current situation as much as possible. But in end, they will do what they have to do. This incident involving Husayn Kamil, Saddam Husayn's son-in-law, is a very clear issue. The escape of Husayn Kamil and of his entourage was not done without previous—and even ensuing— contacts with the Americans. Of course, we do not know what these people who have fled are after or what they want to do. But the Americans' suspicious behavior on this issue has led to this conclusion.

[RESALAT] Do you think that if Saddam's regime is toppled, the regime that comes to power will have friendly relations with Iran?

[Reza'i] We are ready to cooperate with any regime that rules Iraq. Of course, if the regime that comes to power observes basic principles such as peaceful coexistence and popular participation in national affairs, there will be no reason for us not to cooperate with it.

But if those who come to power choose to be hostile to Iran or if they treat their own people with hostility or create problems on the regional level, then we will treat them as they deserve to be treated. How we will behave depends on the other side. Currently we have various types of regimes around us and we have friendly relations with all of them. We have said that we will treat them in a humanitarian and peaceful way unless they do something to change our policies toward them.

[RESALAT] In your comments, you referred to Iraq's dismemberment. Currently Iraqi Kurdistan is under the control of the opponents of Saddam's regime, which has no control over the region. Will this not create a crisis for Iran and for Iranian Kordestan in the future?

[Reza'i] There is no reason why it should. We have good relations with the Kurds in northern Iraq and this has helped to improve the security in Iran's northwestern

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

area. At any rate, whatever the case may be in northern Iraq, it is not a threat to us. But the ideal thing for us is the existence of an integral Iraq, so that we will not lose one of the active Islamic political entities in this region. If Iraq is broken into several pieces, this will definitely be what the Zionist regime wants. The regime occupying Jerusalem wants to create a greater Israel, which it has pursued through geographic occupation and through political and economic means. And for this they think that breaking Iraq into several pieces may be more beneficial for them. Thus, they are trying to prevent the consolidation of an integral Iraq.

[RESALAT] Some want to perpetuate the issue of a free Kurdistan—the Kurdistans of Iran, Turkey, Iraq, and Syria. The Turkish regime is violently clashing with the Kurdish opposition— the PKK—and it has even gone one step further and has attacked Iraqi territory. How do you assess this situation?

[Reza'i] The issue of creating a free Kurdistan is mostly used to deceive the Kurds and is propounded to keep the Kurdish-inhabited areas in a constant struggle with the ruling governments so that they can be exploited. We should not forget the powerful governments. Iran, Turkey, and Syria will confront such a plot strongly. There is a series of common points as far as the Kurds are concerned. But there is a great distance between the Kurds of Turkey and the Kurds of Iraq. Even the Kurds in the PKK are at loggerheads with Mas'ud Barzani.

So, if anything happens, they [not further specified] will not become involved against each other. There are clashes even between the Iranian and the Iraqi Kurds. And, as an example, Turkey's attacks on the Kurdish opposition on Iraqi territory proved this. There are even international decisions on confronting the Kurds.

[RESALAT] In view of Turkey's air strike some years ago on villages in the border areas of West Azerbaijan and recent threats published in Turkish newspapers against Iran, also in relation with the military and security cooperation between the Zionist regime and Turkey, will all these not create dangers for Iran?

[Reza'i] We have very good relations with Turkey. As you know, the Turkish army has entered Iraq several times during the past few years. But it has always respected its border with the Islamic Republic of Iran and has tried to preserve its friendly relations. We have reciprocated.

Of course there are many hands at work trying to upset Iranian- Turkish relations. But Turkish statesmen and politicians have been smart enough to thwart these plots. Sometimes, in their attempt to pursue PKK forces, Iran's border has been bombed. But these operations have largely been on Turkish territory and Turkish pilots have been unable to precisely determine the border line. When a civil war nears border areas, naturally, a few kilometers here and there will be hit.

We do not consider this to mean a military threat but we do consider it to be a type of military control of the border. Turkey is trying to observe the border and not pass it. If our border areas are bombed by chance, we do not interpret this as an intentional act.

[RESALAT] The Zionist regime has repeatedly threatened to attack Iran's nuclear installations. If this happens, how will Iran react?

[Reza'i] If the Israelis do something like that, undoubtedly our answer will be strong. But I think the threats that are being made against us are not serious. If they were they would not have announced the threat in the first place. Also, the propaganda they are carrying out shows they are terrified. Of course they are lying about Iran's intention to manufacture nuclear arms. Iran does not intend to manufacture such arms.

[RESALAT] During the war we saw how Iraq's nuclear installations were attacked by the Zionists. Can they do the same too with Iran?

[Reza'i] Iraq was in the process of building a nuclear bomb and this is why its nuclear installations were attacked. But we are not in the process of manufacturing a nuclear weapon, therefore anyone who delivers the slightest threat or commits the slightest violation against us will receive a much stronger answer; we will not allow ourselves to have any doubts when it comes to replying, because we will put our defense system and potential on other levels to use.

I would like to mention one thing: The conditions that shaped the world's defense systems after WWII are now defunct and have failed. They have become obsolete, like strategic and space weapons. In what recent dispute have they been used? They were not used in the Iran-Iraq war and not in other wars, even though people like Saddam, who had access to such arms, could have used them. Saddam was unable to use the biological weapon. He only used some chemical weapons against us and that was because Saddam does not come within any of the prevailing criteria.

The international code of behavior shows that the weapons that were manufactured after World War II and were relied upon for decades are obsolete. We are pursuing other things and seek to base our defense potential on other factors.

[RESALAT] Could you please give us more details of these factors?

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

[Reza'i] One of these is represented in the 'Ashura forces or the rapid reaction force. If something like the U.S. war against Iraq takes place, at least 20,000 U.S. forces will be taken captive by us before the United States can attack us. But the United States will be ready to sit down at the negotiating table even with the first 1,000 captives. So our defense system is very different and we ourselves have discovered these rules of war, which, we think, are extremely effective.

[RESALAT] What steps were taken by the Islamic Republic to defend the oppressed people in Bosnia? What role has the IRGC [Islamic Revolution Guard Corps] played in relation with this?

[Reza'i] The Iranian people and nation rank first among the other Islamic governments as far as assistance to Bosnia is concerned.

We have extended good military training to our Bosnian brothers— from the lowest to the highest levels. We have spared no humanitarian aid to them.

The main issue in Bosnia is the shortage of arms, not the shortage of manpower. So there is no need to send military personnel.

[RESALAT] We are currently witnessing insecurities on our country's border. Do these insecurities not create problems for Iran?

[Reza'i] We are now in the post-war and post-imam era and the people are witnessing and testing the powerful leadership of His Eminence Ayatollah Khamene'i and the powerful government of Hashemi- Rafsanjani. This is an era in which we have both economic and security stability.

Although there is so much insecurity around us, we have none at home. This is proof of the capability of our leader and statesmen. Many expected the Islamic pattern to fail. But under the worst conditions this pattern proved to be successful. By worst conditions I mean the U.S. embargo on Iran, its obstructionism in Iran's foreign relations, the propaganda commotion against us, efforts to create an atmosphere of opposition against the government and officials, rumormongering, and efforts to attribute things to the clergymen and to claim that clerics are not capable of running the country. If, under these difficult conditions, a pattern proves to be successful, it can operate much better under normal conditions.

[RESALAT] We thank you, Major General, for having granted us this opportunity. We wish you success.

Nuclear Program Said on 'Verge of Collapse'

MM0210140095 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 30 Sep 95 p 2

[Article by Amir Taheri: "Russian and Chinese Eagerness To Please Washington Takes Iranian Nuclear Program to Dead End"]

[FBIS Translated Text] London — Sources interested in Iranian affairs have stated that the very controversial Iranian nuclear program, revived five years ago with extensive publicity, is now on the verge of collapse.

What focused the spotlight on that issue was China's decision to drop out of a deal for the construction of two — some say three — nuclear power stations in Iran.

That decision was announced during a meeting between Chinese Foreign Minister Qian Qichen and U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher in New York last Wednesday [27 September], just 24 hours after Russian Ambassador to Iran Sergey Tretyakov announced that Russia did not intend to supply Iran with nuclear power stations.

That Chinese decision to please the United States, made after the meeting with Christopher, perhaps reflected a Chinese desire to make concessions to Washington, particularly as the Beijing authorities want to improve circumstances in favor of an official visit its president intends to make to Washington next year.

The Russian position came the day after the long telephone conversation between U.S. President Bill Clinton and Russian President Boris Yeltsin. As is well known, Russia hopes that Clinton will attend the summit of the "G-7" and Russia which the latter expects to be held in Moscow next April. The cancellation of the nuclear deal with Iran was probably one of a group of measures aimed at persuading Clinton to accept the invitation, just two months before the Russian presidential elections.

It is worth noting that the Iranian nuclear program was originally drawn up in the mid-seventies with the help of West Germany, Canada, and France. Even at that time the United States was opposed to Iran's nuclear ambitions, despite the fact that the shah, Washington's close ally, was still in power then.

In 1979 Khomeyni canceled the Iranian nuclear program, and that earned him the praise of William Sullivan, the then U.S. ambassador in Tehran, who described the decision as "wise and farsighted."

The aim of the program was to build 20 nuclear power stations throughout Iran to meet half of Iran's needs by

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

the year 2000. Iran's objective was to preserve its oil and gas resources for export and for industrial purposes instead of using them as fuel.

But Iran had a hidden agenda then. The shah hoped that Iran would be able to absorb all aspects of nuclear technology, including nuclear weapons. That was perhaps a reaction to reports that Israel and India had managed to develop a large arsenal of nuclear weapons and that Pakistan and Iraq were about to start their own nuclear projects. On the other hand, those opposed to the nuclear program in Iran argued that Iran had the second largest reserves of natural gas in the world, enough for 400 years of consumption and export, and therefore did not need the very costly nuclear options. They also pointed out that Iran is entirely located on one of the fault lines most susceptible to earthquakes in the world and that, therefore, building nuclear power stations was a very dangerous project.

In 1989 'Ali Khamene'i, the new revolutionary mullah who succeeded Khomeyni as "leader," revived and reactivated the program. The declared justifications were similar to those given by the Shah's experts.

The only difference between the two was that the mullahs this time wanted to develop nuclear capabilities as a deterrent against U.S. military pressure. In that context a number of states were asked to help, including Argentina, Brazil, China, and Russia.

But Washington's feverish pressures contributed to the collapse of the program, at least temporarily, because of Iran's severe internal problems. Iran now is in dire need of liquid cash and has accumulated foreign debts of over $40 billion. It would need to spend at least $5 billion in the next five years just to start the project. It is clear now that it is absolutely unable to raise such a sum, despite the fact that next year it will try to negotiate a rescheduling of $12 billion of its debts. Foreign banks are unlikely to help it if it insists on proceeding with its highly expensive nuclear program.

Furthermore, the Iranian program faces numerous technical problems, including the fact that most of the senior nuclear experts and technicians trained for years by Iran before the revolution either fled the country or have been liquidated, imprisoned, or pensioned off since the revolution. Training new teams of scientists and experts could take several years. That is in addition to the fact that the great powers are reluctant to provide aid in that field.

Russia had agreed to help Iran in the final year of Mikhail Gorbachev's reign in the former Soviet Union. Gorbachev signed an initial agreement in principle with Hashemi-Rafsanjani during one of their meetings in Moscow. Russia renewed that agreement in 1993, and Rafsanjani was able to secure a similar agreement with China during his visit to China in the same year.

But, as a result of the recent Russian and Chinese cancellations, nothing is left of Iran's nuclear program except a research reactor built in 1956 and renewed in 1965 and still operating in Tehran. There is also a training and research center in Kelardesht on the Caspian Sea, in addition to a research and development center in Azerbayjan which began to operate last year.

In addition to these two centers, there is a nuclear power station, not completed yet, on the Bushehr Peninsula. That was designed and part-built by a group of German companies headed by the Siemens company in the seventies. It was supposed to be completed by 1980, but Khomeyni stopped the project. After that the Iraqis bombed the site several times during the eight-year Iraq-Iran war.

In 1991 South Korea was invited to complete the project, but the Koreans quickly backtracked. Then last year Russia agreed to complete the project, but the agreement with Russia is now open to many questions and complaints.

An initial technical study was supposed to begin last year and completed this year as the first phase of a $1.2 billion project. Some 150 Russian experts arrived in Bushehr for that purpose, but now Tretyakov says that one more year is need to complete the study and that it could take five more years to build the station. And, once again, cash shortage seems to be a major obstacle, in addition to other practical and technical problems. The Russians cannot complete the project without technology and equipment from Germany and other Western countries. A complete redesign to ensure use of Russian technology would increase the cost. The German companies which originally began the construction say that they could reveal or volunteer some sensitive expertise without which the station cannot operate effectively. The Germans refuse to train Iranian nuclear scientists until Iranian foreign policy shows some signs of "tangible positive change." In Tehran many are calling for the suspension of the Bushehr project on the grounds that it could become a bottomless pit swallowing up tremendous wealth and resources to no avail. Actually, one study indicates that the energy cost of the Bushehr project is six times the cost of oil and natural gas at the current prices.

These critics are supported by an army of environmentalists who like to remind everyone that Bushehr is situated on an active earthquake fault line registering 3000 minor tremors every year, and that any quake registering seven points on the Richter scale would definitely

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

destroy the station and pollute all the southern regions of Iran and large areas in the Gulf.

Rafsanjani To Visit Vietnam, Philippines, Bangladesh

LD0410223995 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 2030 GMT 4 Oct 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] President Hashemi-Rafsanjani left Tehran on Wednesday [3 October] night, at the head of a delegation comprising of high-ranking political and economic officials for official visits to Vietnam, the Philippines, and Bangladesh.

Here is a telephone report by our correspondent, Ruhani-Nezhad:

[Ruhani-Nezhad] [passage omitted] A high-ranking political and economic delegation, including the foreign minister ['Ali Akbar Velayati] and the mines and metals minister [Mohammad Hoseyn Mahluji] accompanies the president. [passage omitted]

The president referred to the mainly Muslim-populated Bangladesh and recalling Iran's foreign policy priority for friendship and cooperation with Islamic states, said: This is the first visit by a high-ranking Iranian delegation to Bangladesh, which is due to the importance that Iran attaches to its relations with that country.

I should add that on the first leg of his tour the president will arrive in Hanoi, the capital of Vietnam, tomorrow morning.

Report on Opposition Leader's View of 'Regime'

MM0210145495 London AL-HAYAH in Arabic 1 Oct 95

[Report on interview with Daryush Foruhar, leader of the Hezb-e Mellat-e Iran party, by Arlette Khuri in Paris; date not given]

[FBIS Translated Text] In an interview he gave to AL-HAYAH during his private visit to Paris, Daryush Foruhar, leader of the Iranian opposition party Hezb-e Mellat-e Iran, has stated that the Iranian regime is now in a state of political and economic bankruptcy as well as in a state of international isolation. He added that this state of affairs makes it possible to seek to topple the regime under the weight of popular movements. He described the forthcoming legislative elections as mere mock elections that lack credibility. He affirmed that efforts are now being made for the formation of a unified front of the forces opposed to the regime.

Foruhar painted a gloomy picture of the current situation in Iran. He said: "The country has reached the brink of economic bankruptcy; it is now in a state of political isolation and the regime has lost touch with the actual reality of conditions in the country, where over 50 percent of the Iranian people now live below the poverty line.

"The situation," he said, "is no better on the social front either, as corruption is rife within the administration and embezzlement has spread in a manner that exceeds all imagination. Extreme indignation has also spread so much that the regime has no alternative but to refer a number of responsible officials to courts in an attempt to absorb part of this state of indignation, through mock trials."

Referring to the quarters behind the explosions that have been taking place in Iran, Daryush said: "Their identity was not clear and there is nothing to indicate that any specific side was responsible for them. But the Iranian regime generally lays the blame for these explosions on the Iraqi regime or on the Mojahedin-e Khalq, who operate hand in hand with Iraq."

He expressed his belief that the explosions "might be the work of the Iranian regime itself with a view to misleading public opinion and diverting its attention from its basic problems, which stem from the internal contradictions that exist among the various groups within it."

Foruhar pointed out that "the contradictions that exist among the various groups that constitute the regime have penetrated all levels of authority from top to bottom and reached the various organizations and formations that stem from the regime. He attributed this state of affairs to the continued adherence of the Iranian regime to its unilateral system of government, a fact which forces it to exclude any rival personality that might arise in its way."

Foruhar added that "despite this state of affairs, all leaders of the Islamic Republic stick together and rush to support each other as soon as they feel any threat to themselves from the people."

Foruhar pointed out that his party, which aspires to toppling the regime in the Islamic Republic of Iran, believes that "change must come in a flexible way and without any violence and should rely on the capabilities of the Iranian people themselves and their readiness to manifest their rejection of the conditions imposed on them, by resorting to demonstrations and sit-in strikes in protest against the practices of the regime."

He added that "with the spread of poverty inside Iran, indignation and the desire for change will grow, particularly within the ranks of the working classes, which live in abject economic and social conditions,

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

which have so far resulted in numerous strikes. The students' circles have on their part witnessed a state of indignation and tension due to the deterioration of the economic situation that over 5 million Iranian students being deprived of education."

He said that he believes that "the forthcoming parliamentary elections in Iran provide an opportunity which the opposition should exploit to escalate the popular movement against the regime as well as to escalate the people's indignation against it, particularly as these elections will be like past elections — mere mock elections devoid of all credibility."

Foruhar pointed out that "the Hezb-e Mellat-e Iran party has set a number of demands which the regime should abide by if it is to give any semblance of credibility to the elections. These demands call for ensuring freedom for all political parties and organizations without any exception and freedom for the press from all censorship and the abolition of all extraordinary courts, including the Islamic and revolutionary courts, whose only purpose is to suppress the opposition."

He affirmed that the party's participation in the elections depended on the regime's acceptance of its demands, and that if these demands are not met " the party will endeavor to impede and condemn the elections."

Asked how effective popular movements could be in terms of toppling the regime without any favorable regional or international factor for such a change, Foruhar said: "With time the most oppressive and domineering regimes lose their ability to survive. The Iranian regime is about to exhaust its ability to survive. If outside quarters wish to support the process of change, well and good. But if they do not wish to do so, the Iranian people will continue their movement and will not stop it."

He affirmed that "the Iranian people do not wish to abandon Islam by their desire for change, but only to change the hypocritical system of the Islamic Republic."

Military Uprising, Possible Scenarios Discussed

95LH0241A London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 29 Jul 95 p 7

[Article by Amir Tahiri: "Iran: Strange Summer Scenarios"]

[FBIS Translated Text] "To put it simply, we are preparing ourselves to confront any eventualities." This is what Iranian Interior Minister Mohammad 'Ali Besharati said in an address he delivered when he tried to explain the reasons that led to the military exercises that were carried out recently in major provincial capitals throughout Iran.

Current military exercises are carried out by pro-Iranian Government militias for fear of any attempts that may be made by armed groups opposed to the government to gain control in one or more provincial capitals and to declare a transitional government in them. This assumption is founded on the basis that any city which the armed opposition may seize will spark an anti-government uprising that could perhaps cover all parts of Iran which are experiencing stifling political and economic crises and popular wrath.

The Iranian opposition is divided ideologically and it disagrees on the means to topple and seize the government if the existing regime falls.

Mojahedin-e Khalq, the main Iranian armed opposition group which is found in Iraq now, believes that the current Iranian regime's continued control of power is due to the presence of several thousand armed groups that support the regime. However, these groups are prepared to fight for their private interests. Mojahedin-e Khalq predicts that mass riots and anarchy will encompass Iran in its entirety sooner or later. This may cause the government to find itself compelled to deploy its militias over a region equal in area to all of West Europe.

Should such a situation develop, the government will not have enough forces to help it control Tehran, the immense city of 12 million people. Mojahedin-e Khalq's members and armed groups, which are assumed to be hiding in the capital, will then surface in the arena to fight pro-government forces and will, thanks to popular support, control Tehran. As people knowledgeable in Iranian affairs are aware, whoever controls Tehran will control all of Iran.

Such a strategy is definitely naive and dangerous. However, this doesn't mean that it should be dropped altogether as one of the mechanisms to topple the Iranian regime. This option must be taken seriously only because Mojahedin-e Khalq, or even the other armed opposition groups, may find themselves about to embark on this experiment practically. Should this happen, the consequence will be a massacre perpetrated by Iran's pro-regime forces which are superior in armament, financing, and mobility. It is to be noted here how Mojahedin-e Khalq strugglers tried to ignite an armed uprising in Tehran in 1981 and how at least 2,000 people were killed as a result, including hundreds executed without trial.

Any endeavor to transform the current situation in Iran into something similar to the previous situation in Afghanistan is likely to drive the majority of Iranians to support the current regime, which is undoubtedly isolated politically and which enjoys no popular support,

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

but this does not mean that most Iranians wish to risk turning their country into another Afghanistan.

Some Iranian opposition factions have rejected the "armed uprising" scenario and some of the shah's supporters still hope that change will be brought about by a classic military coup that takes place under the following circumstances:

- an Iran paralyzed by strikes, anarchy, and clashes between the masses and pro-regime armed forces and a paralyzed economy in which even oil workers are on strike, thus causing the government to lose the source of money which it needs to survive;

- with the crisis peaking, the army, or even the Revolutionary Guard, intervenes to save the situation. It is natural that the army or the guard will blame the regime. Then, a transitional government will be formed and it will invite the crown prince to return from his exile in Washington.

The latter scenario is imaginary because the military who take the risk to plan and implement military coups rarely hand over power to others after they have confronted many dangers to attain power, and why should they hand power over to others? There is another problem regarding this scenario, namely: Who will carry out the coup? The Iranian Army has no precedence of intervention in political affairs. This army has been subjected to six successive campaigns of dismissal and displacement since 1979. Moreover, its officers have not had enough time to enable them to unite with a spirit of solidarity and to adopt a fateful political position. As for the army's basic units, they are deployed far from Tehran and the provincial capitals.

The Iranian Revolutionary Guard, which is tantamount to a parallel army, is perhaps the party most likely to be tempted to plot a military coup, but it is not such an easy matter. The Revolutionary Guard lacks a credible central command. Moreover, the current command is subjected to close surveillance by the regime leaders and agencies. If the guard forces try to move without the regular army's consent, the latter may perhaps launch a counter-offensive, keeping in mind that the army is better-armed and better-trained.

Contrary to numerous third world countries, Iran has not been a convenient theater for a military coup and there does not loom in the horizon any likelihood that it will turn into such a theater in the near future. In any case, the era of coups is in its last days. Most coups staged in third world countries have either been influenced by a major power or a group of major powers or hatched with the thought of gaining the support of at least one major power. Since the end of the Cold War, it has become practically impossible for a major power to get involved in any coup attempt.

Another faction of the Iranian opposition still hopes that a "second revolution" will occur. Let us take in this case the Iranian leftist forces' position, which is captivated by revolutions and by nostalgia for the revolutionary past. These forces' deficient argument says that the first revolution swerved from its correct fundamental course. They also refuse to acknowledge that all revolutions, including what they call the "triumphant revolutions," such as the French revolution, brought nothing other than misery and tragedies. What Iran needs is not a "second revolution" but a "counter revolution" that lifts it from the deep abyss to which it has descended because of the so-called Islamic Revolution.

In any case, the staging of revolutions is not a sport in which nations like to engage regularly. Even nations more inclined toward adventure do not touch off more than one revolution in a lifetime. Iran's Islamic Revolution has caused the death of 1.5 million people. Moreover, it has forced 3.5 million Iranians to live in exile, plus 10 millions victimized by the policy of purges, prison sentences, and property confiscation. In addition, many Iranians have been denied their post-service pensions. On top of this, other malicious and vengeful acts have been committed by the regime's authorities. The Iranian people no longer have any force that enables them to stage any coup.

So what is to be done? It may be understood from the arguments cited so far that I am defending the current situation in Iran. No, I am not defending this situation at all because I believe firmly that the people have the right to fight any regime they do not want, but we must establish here some principles to be taken into consideration:

1. To fight and topple a government regime and to establish a worse alternative in its place is madness. This is why I did not support Khomeyni's revolution. I wanted the shah's regime to disappear, but when I realized that its disappearance meant the seizure of power by Khomeyni's followers, I refused to join the opposition. This applies to the current condition in Iran under the umbrella of the existing regime. It is foolish to oppose this regime in order to establish a worse alternative in its place.

2. Ends don't justify means. In fact, means do, to a large degree, define goals. Democracy and human rights cannot be achieved by planting bombs in train stations or by military coups.

3. The opposition must steer away from the practices of the regime that it opposes. If the opposition is

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

fighting the Iranian regime today because it is tyrannical, illogical, violent, and incapable, then the opposition must demonstrate that it is something else.

Article on Daily's Claim on Pakhsh-e Now Company

95LA0373D Tehran SALAM in Persian 31 Jul 95 p 1

[FBIS Translated Text] **News Division—Following the publication of a report in issue No. 46 of PAYAM-E DANESHJU entitled, "Pakhsh-e Now Company, Monopoly in Distribution," our correspondent contacted Mr. Mohsen Rafiqdust and asked his opinion about the claim of PAYAM-E DANESHJU.**

In its issue No. 46, publishing a letter by the head of the Foundation for the Oppressed and Self-Sacrificers, he claims that he has asked the companies of the foundation to distribute the food, health, and other products only through Pakhsh-e Now Company. PAYAM-E DANESHJU has also claimed that Pakhsh-e Now belongs to Mohsen Rafiqdust's father-in-law and brother-in-law.

In response to the question of whether such a letter is true, Mr. Mohsen Rafiqdust said: Yes, in order to coordinate distribution and organize the services of the companies under our control, such a letter was issued, but PAYAM-E DANESHJU avoided mentioning its date, so readers would not to know that it was issued in late 1368 [21 March 1989-20 March 1990]. Hence, PAYAM-E DANESHJU has made no important discovery.

Commenting on the administration of the distribution company and whether they are his relatives, he said: Neither have my father-in-law nor any of my relatives had any responsibilities in the foundation. Since the year that I accepted a post in the foundation, I have announced to all my relatives that as long as I am in the foundation, no one should accept any responsibility in the it. My father-in-law, who is now 75 years old, has never had any responsibility in the Pakhsh-e Now Company.

In conclusion, he said: Pakhsh-e Now Company is a confiscated company, and 100 percent of its shares belong to the foundation.

One of the officials of Pakhsh-e Now Company contacted our correspondent and said: Of the shares of the company, 70 percent were confiscated and belong to the Foundation for the Self-Sacrificers, and the remaining 30 percent are under the supervision of the foundation, which until 1365 [21 March 1986-20 March 1987] belonged to the National Industries Organization and in Azar [22 November-21 December] of the same year were included among the properties of the foundation.

Regarding the claims of PAYAM-E DANESHJU, he said: The letter in question was issued on 14/11/1368 [3 February 1990] by the director of the foundation, and in the same year, the general manager of the company at the time was Mr. Farahati, who is not related in any way to Mr. Rafiqdust.

Article Describes National Government, Society

95LH0232A London AL-HAYAH in Arabic 16 Jul 95 p 13

[Article by Hasan Dawud: "Iran's Revolution and Government: Fire and Water When They Meet in Same Fist"]

[FBIS Translated Text] They have built Imam Khomeyni's shrine in an undeveloped area located nearly one hour by bus from al-Istiqlal [Independence] Hotel in Tehran. This is not considered a long distance in Tehran, where it takes one hour or more to cross from one side of the city to the other.

Guests were taken from the hotel to the tomb by numerous buses. Organizers of the bus procession were keen on keeping the buses together. They also guarded them with police cars and escorting motorcycles which raced ahead of the buses suddenly to explore the route and to stop traffic so the guests could move on.

There were nearly 20 buses which carried guests from Lebanon, Syria, Jordan, and Bosnia. Guests from other regions, such as those from Islamic [Central] Asian republics, headed for the tomb by other routes. At the gathering place around the shrine, the 20 buses lined up amidst other countless buses. At a vast nearby square, some helicopters were landing and others taking off, issuing screaming sounds. A day or two before the celebration, it was rumored that all passengers were going to be transported by those aircraft in order to ensure their safety and speed. From the numbers of active helicopters around the shrine, it was evident to arrivals that those numbers were enough to transport thousands of people.

On the roads and in the squares surrounding the immense structure, hundreds of thousands had arrived from nearby quarters, villages, and towns either by bus or by truck. Those buses and trucks did not finish unloading their passengers till after the start of the celebration. They must not have used enough buses and trucks because the amassed crowd also included women and children who had arrived at the site a day or two earlier.

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

Those people spread all along the road leading to the shrine. The closer they got to the shrine the more crowded they became, forming what looked like a big scene comprised of numerous scattered incidents.

In one incident, women wearing the more modest black attire marched in some sort of a silent demonstration. In another scene, men marched in a big procession, beating their chests to the beat of chants emanating from loudspeakers mounted on small trucks. In a yet another scene, other men marched in an opposite direction, as if they were on their way back after their procession had reached the end of the road. They were beating their backs with iron chains, the only manifestation of physical flagellation. At another spot, a group of men, followed by a group of women, marched behind a multi-tipped metal banner from which big feathers protruded.

Together, they formed the celebration framework, prelude, or public guard. Their number here was no less than 1 million, according to next day's press estimates. Inside the capacious hall in whose center lies Imam Khomeyni's tomb, there were nearly 100,000 people. They were let in through the hall's numerous gates, which were marked according to the rank and sex of arrivals. Women had to enter through gates other than those used by men.

Inside, men and women sat separately, but it was difficult for us, we who sat at one end of the hall, to find out how people were arranged there in the other half of the tomb, which started at the tomb's temple. We couldn't see, not just because of remoteness but also because of the undulating movement and the surging sounds rising from the center, which looked like a barrier that arrested one's attention.

Thousands of young men were amassed to form this barrier and they were prevented from mingling with guests or with others who were permitted into the hall. We, seated at the theater-like end of the hall, wondered if an iron barrier that held back those thousands of people was an original part of the structure or whether it had been built for this occasion.

In any case, those young men were amassed in a manner that made it difficult to find out whether they were sitting or standing. It seemed as if the space in which they were amassed was big enough for 2,000 people, but 20,000 people were squeezed in there. From our high place, we could see the heads below, showing between feet and barrier bars. People were all tangled up down there, with somebody's head stuck to somebody else's belly or next to somebody else's foot.

Upon entering through the gate, we saw a sight that recurred inside every three minutes: a young man fainted and was carried out on shoulders to be taken out of the hall where first-aid teams were at work. In that overcrowding, even the water hoses used to spray people with water the way one sprinkles crops was not enough to stop people from fainting.

Khamene'i and Lebanese Female Student

They were crowded into a space that seemed too small for so many in order that the sounds of support and enthusiasm they issued may produce maximum effect. The young men's cheers were orchestrated by a man in his sixties who was distinguished from the rest of them by a red band around his head and a turban, of course. He sat above the young men at the edge of the iron barrier, turning his face and body alternately between them and then the podium, which speakers had started ascending in succession.

The man in his sixties was the maestro orchestrating their cheers and their excitement.. Often, he was unable to silence them at the moment he wanted them to be silent, and they went on with their cheering. When their cheers exceeded all limits after the celebration moderator had finished introducing somebody, we thought that the man introduced must have been one of Iran's influential leaders and politicians, but it turned out that the man rising to the podium was a very popular reciter. The "consolation session" he recited had its impact and the audience responded to it, accompanying the reciter and uniting his voices with his voice in a single surging recitation.

But the young men contained their greatest excitement until the leader 'Ali Khamene'i appeared on the podium. He was elevated above those who had ascended the podium before him. His appearance was not preceded by the appearance of "other" notables. This day was the main celebration day, and it was devoted to Khamene'i, as the previous day had been devoted to Hashemi Rafsanjani, the president of the republic, who had preceded Khamene'i to the same hall.

Even though Khamene'i was the young men's supreme leader and even though they had amassed fundamentally to hear him, he was unable to silence them so he could start delivering his address. They did not stop their chants of support. It was as if the young men themselves became captivated by the strong ardor which their cheers of support evoked in the hall. The repeated attempts Khamene'i made to silence them were to no avail.

He continued to gesture with his hand to silence them and they went on doing what they were doing. Representatives of Iran's religious minorities were in the space separating the podium from the cheering

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

audience. To the guests looking down at them from their gradually rising elevations, it seemed again as if those representatives were only brought to hear the familiar exchange between the revolution and its masses. Those crowded at the iron barrier were the essence or the juice of the hundreds of thousands circling around the shrine. They were all allowed into the hall on the permission and under the supervision of the organizers so as to make it appear that Khamene'i's words were falling on the ears of all the Iranian people, as they were falling on the ears of those chanting with roaring voices.

On the first evening following the celebration, a non-Iranian friend working as a reporter for foreign news agencies told us that in his address, which lasted a little more than an hour, Khamene'i underlined two issues: Developing the government, which is the real challenge facing the revolution, and refraining from exporting the revolution, considering that the Islamic faith can revive itself in all countries.

So, Khamene'i wants both government and revolution together, or he wants to work to nurture both, but each independently of the other, so the religious authority will not be subjected to the experience of the single test: The revolution test or the government test. In the capacious hall where the roaring cheers of support rose high and where Khamene'i called for government and revolution simultaneously, it seemed difficult to combine both because they are opposite. Moreover, the sight of those cheering inside the hall was different from the sights we saw in the city of Tehran, where civilian life goes on in markets and parks, as well as on streets where organized traffic flowed, interrupted only by delegation buses which were given right of way at street intersections and squares.

As of the moment we arrived in Tehran, a Lebanese female student living there warned us that Tehran is not a big suburb (meaning Beirut's southern suburb). She realized that all her Lebanese compatriots have this impression, believing that the suburb is a mirror that reflects Iranian life, with its sights and its activity, or that the suburb gets a little bit of this life here and a little bit of it there and combines them into its own life. It is most likely that non-Lebanese people had a similar impression of Tehran and the other Iranian cities, considering that since the revolution erupted, images depicting life as ordinary and normal have rarely been transmitted from these cities.

Iranian cities reflect a different image. From an al-Istiqlal Hotel balcony, Tehran seemed to extend endlessly into the plain that embraces it and into the foothills into which streets have ascended and in which homes have been built.

In Wali al-'Asr [ruler of the era] Street (Pahlavi Street previously), which is not only Tehran's longest street but perhaps one of the world's longest streets, homes and gardens looked tranquil on both sides of the street, and so did the pedestrians. Moreover, the population was small and did not form crowds of the kind that we see in overcrowded Third World cities. Architecturally, Tehran seems as if it is still living in past decades of this century when buildings rose and streets were opened in accordance with a general plan.

Tehran and Iran's other cities are not what the visitor imagines them to be. In the city's southern suburb, where the poorer areas are found, quarters look tidy to the visitor passing through them and they do not betray the poverty characterizing their inhabitants. It is as if the architectural design of homes has intended the overcrowding to exist behind doors and walls that hold this overcrowding back from the street. Since before the revolution, the city has been able to offer as a facade the sight of its parks and of its tidy quarters. As for poor quarters, the inquisitive have to open the doors in order to see what is behind them.

Behind the scene of an orderly daily life which tempts one to believe that people in this scene are as orderly and happy as their city, there exists another and a different "human" life. After touring the southern quarters, a friend of ours, a university professor, said that all the people he had met were drained by inflation and that when he asked them about their living conditions, they offered, according to this friend, mocking answers that are characteristic of those who strain under the weight of the crisis.

Behind a door in what looked like the outside yard of a building, 12 young men lived in a single room because they could not live independently, even though they were employed. It is true that housing rent is not high and that it does not exceed one third a tenant's income. However, minimum income here in Tehran is no more than $40 a month. Regardless of how low commodity prices are, this sum is not enough for a person to support himself.

Sudden "Violations"

Under the umbrella of the sight of an orderly city that makes Tehran one of the most important cities of its environment, there roams in the city a life of which the visitor sees only signs or traces. In more than one Iranian city, our hosts were, we thought, extremely and excessively concerned with our safety. This is why we thought that the hosts believed that there were people lurking for us at intersections.

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

When we reached the home we wanted in an opulent quarter of Tehran, we were surprised to see our Iranian friend, who had given us a lift in his car, tie his steering wheel to the gas pedal with a lockable chain. This too makes one believe that the impression that cities create in the mind are only a part of their true character.

Behind the door in southern Tehran, there were among the 12 young men two who were dealing drugs and one who used them, but it must be noted here that this fact and the story about the chained steering wheel are not exclusive to the Iranian society, considering that in most European cities, residents pull out their car radios and take them with them whenever they park their cars and get out of them. Moreover, there are European cities which have permitted drug use with new laws. In Iran, each of these violations seems to happen so suddenly and forcefully every time that a person who sees or hears of it feels as if he were hit by a wave that overwhelms everything he has seen previously. An example is the sight of women sitting together at 2400 in Millat Park or of their going separately, also at night, to the Jamshid Park, which belonged to one of the shah's palaces before it was turned by the revolution into a public park.

These are things that disturb the city's tranquillity, and one learns of them by hearing about them, by observing them, or by opening a previously shut door. As for the sounds which we heard at al-Istiqlal Hotel balconies and which emanated from marchers in processions organized on the anniversary of "Ashura," they seemed to us, we who had come from Lebanon, like soccer matches taking place in the city. We don't know if all this happened in the same manner during the shah's days before the shah was toppled. However, Tehran and other cities seemed as if they were trying to penetrate their modern times with a time from a past age during the 10 days of "Ashura." As we learned, these processions last the entire month of Muharram. Marchers roam the streets, preceded by the symbolic feathered metal standard, thus blocking the road to some traffic.

Everywhere, the processions appeared to us to be splinters of the big rally staged at Imam Khomeyni's shrine on occasion of his death anniversary. In Isfahan, where we were invited to an evening of mourning, organizers selected an empty space among houses and turned it into some sort of a square which was void of everything except images of members of the prophet's family and signs bearing invocations addressed to these members. The empty space was intended to put distance between celebrants and their present time and to take them to the past time of the prophet's family—a time in which developed cities could not be imagined. The rally was held in open space so it would seem as if it were a part of a past desert.

The processions were tantamount to little plays intended to recall a distant past followed by ages that have ultimately produced this city with its current development and its city planning. A visitor staying at the hotel finds some sort of obvious discord between the city's condition and those roaming it with their processions. He tells himself: One of the two has gone to extremes to gain a greater domain for itself

The visitor then thinks of the fact that these two domains (or the human forces representing each of them) have always been found together, either coexisting or shunning one another.

At the time when Iran was marching at a rapid pace toward its modernity, Imam Reza's shrine in Meshed never stopped receiving thousands who came to it as pilgrims from all parts of Iran every day. In our visit to the city, we saw the shrine occupying the center of the city and towering over it with its most opulent golden domes and minarets that were created by the most skillful craftsmen. Inside the shrine, visitors by the thousands sought its blessings. Some of them prayed and some, having already touched the tomb, stepped away from the crowd vying to touch it and stood aside to cry, overwhelmed by the emotions of the devout. As for the city around the shrine, or the part of the city that surrounds the shrine, we saw it as poor and old. Vendors in small shops are still selling things that were sold here centuries ago. From those who preceded us to visit the city of Meshed, the "ordinary characterization" we heard was that the poorest of the poor make their pilgrimage to the uniquely opulent shrine. While in Iran, we found that people are not only unaware of this disparity but perhaps feel that the gold, marble, and crystal are an indication of the proud past which they support and whose banner they fly.

Imam Reza's shrine is the center and fulcrum of the city of Meshed. In Isfahan, the square dominated by Baha'-al-Din al-'Amili Mosque seemed to be the city center. The bazaar there is no more than an alley branching from the square and reached by one of the square's gates.

It is as if throughout ages since the Safawi Kingdom, Iran has not been able to create an additional weight center and as if the succession of years has brought nothing other than that which can be easily obliterated and removed by its very nature.

Mosques have always found people to preserve and restore them and to make the necessary improvements they need. The guide who accompanied us in Isfahan proceeded to describe things to us, pointing out the different colors and engravings on the walls and the number of times the mosque was repaired. The last

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

repair was made when a part of a dome was destroyed by an air raid during Iran's war with Iraq. The method used to restore that part of the dome, which was lowered to the ground and which looked like the side of a boat, deserved to be demonstrated to visiting tourists.

On the way north to the Caspian Sea, we witnessed the ongoing work to dig new tunnels under the Alborz Mountains so they would be added to the numerous tunnels dug by Germans previously. Iranians have also built dams, and we saw one of those enormous dams on our way. They have set up gigantic projects in more than one field in Iran, but in less important matters, things have been allowed to go untended. At al-Istiqlal Hotel where we stayed, which is perhaps one of Iran's biggest hotels and which is managed by a public organization, we believe that they have added nothing new to its furniture and its setup since the inception of the revolution.

"They have not re-upholstered the seats of the hotel restaurants and they have never changed their springs," said a lady visitor who sank below table level whenever she sat at a restaurant table.

Cost of Graft

On the Caspian seashore, the beautiful restaurant at which we stayed looked as if it had been built for another type of clients. Here it is now waiting or reminiscing. In city streets, cars manufactured locally belong to years past. It is as if this industry has declined greatly or has perhaps stopped altogether. The country's official administration, which is controlled by the government, not the revolution, is in a state of anarchy. The graft money figure has amounted, according to a study conducted by 'Izzatollah Sehabi, to $100 billion since the start of the revolution. This is three times the cost of Iran's war with Iraq, according to the same study.

According to Ahmad Naraghi, whom we met with a small group of intellectuals, there are two power centers in Iran's modern history: one center emanating from the clergy and another from the alliance of monarchists and technocrats. This man said, "Iran's pre-revolution political society accepted the following models and classifications from the west: Specialized labor, modernism, and bureaucracy. The religious authority has taken an uncertain position on this modernism. Initially, Imam Khomeyni believed that jurisprudence is a complete system of government, but he also believed, according to Naraghi, that one had to utilize specialists and technocrats. "This was done pragmatically. However, technocrats were denied political participation," said Naraghi.

Such issues as war, economic plans, strategy, and election of the president of the republic are controlled by clergy solely. According to Hoseyn Qadiyan, a researcher at KEYHAN magazine, the presence of these specialists and technocrats in Iranian life seems like the presence of the defeated who are brought into a time to which the do not belong. Previously, specialists and technocrats had positions which they have now lost. They have not been able to form a league to unite them. "In Iran, according to Qadiyan, technocrats who come from various social groups have no social identity but rather conflicting identities. Meanwhile, one finds such an identity among clergymen, and this identity is old and it predates the revolution by numerous decades."

Perhaps clergymen believe that technocrats are specialists in executive work and that the most they can accomplish or decide falls short of strategic decisionmaking. They are civil servants, regardless of whether high-ranking or minor servants, working for the religious authority men.

At the outset of the revolution, the clergy felt so proud of their victory that they thought they could run the country's administrative and technical affairs, but they quickly realized that management and specialization capabilities which they do not possess are needed to run these affairs.

When the war with Iraq ended, the clergy got as close as possible to acknowledging their need for technocrats. Post-war conditions were different and peace time required decisions on projects and plans different from the war decisions when the options of victory, martyrdom, or continuation of the war demanded historic stances and a historic leadership, and these were provided by Ayatollah Khomeyni at the time.

In the post-war period, the country required decisions of a different kind, but leadership and decisionmaking remained in the clergy's hands. On the issue of population growth, for example, technocrats were able to push the government to make a number of decisions and to draft programs connected with family planning. Previously, the clergy believed that a bigger population elevated the nation's status and strengthened its power, relying in this regard on statements from Islamic history, but with the experience they gained in power, they realized—though lagging behind modern studies—that an annual population growth of 3.9 percent requires an annual national income growth of nearly 80 percent. This is difficult to accomplish. The family-planning program has been developed by technocrats who have imposed it on the clergy, but only the clergy can approve this program.

According to Naraghi, the clergy's perplexity lies in the fact that they are not a modern tendency that operates

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

with modern tools. He has said, "By experience, the idea of moving modernism to the right did not last long. What is happening is the opposite, i.e. the modernization of religion. In religion, there are no elections, no constitution, and so forth, but the Iranian regime is enacting these things now."

When 'Ali Khamene'i, the revolution leader, calls for confronting the challenge of developing the government on the anniversary of Imam Khomeyni's death, he does not call for a change of priorities but for a greater degree of technocratic intervention in government. He also urges the clergy to hand over the banner of developing the government to others. Moreover, he calls for numerous other changes, including support for the modern age instead of the old age, which still has its pillars and mainstays in Iran. This old age also has its masses, and a sample of these masses was let into the shrine's capacious hall so it would cheer loudly and so its voice would sound the loudest in front of representatives of all of Iran's other ethnic groups. Outside the hall, in city quarters and husayniyat [Shiite socio-religious clubs], subcommittees were formed and tied in a chain of successive leadership so coordination would be developed between various quarters and districts and then between cities. The processions we saw roaming the various cities did not march forth spontaneously but with an organization effort centered in the husayniyat.

Another thing that "government" requires is a change in the forms of representation. Consequently, elected municipal councils will replace appointed councils (keeping in mind that the Iranian constitution calls for their election). A press union and a doctors union will also come into existence and the Engineers Union (formed by election) will have an office and a budget, which it lacks now.

Moreover, the "government" should allow free rein to other figures who have accepted to have their capabilities restrained by restrictions established during the revolution years. There is in Tehran now an example of these men, namely Hoseyn Karbaschi, the new mayor. When speaking of the mayor and of the accomplishments he has made during the short period of his leadership of the municipality, people change their tone and they sound as if they are talking of the latest victory of Iranian modernism. In the many parks that he has created, Korbastishi has distributed signs which read: "God is beautiful and He loves beauty," meaning nature's beauty, of course. Men or women who carry such a sign and who are happy with it may go further to demand more than just keeping park flowers planted where they should be planted.

Professionals Say Majles Must Defend Public Sector

95LA0373E Tehran SALAM in Persian 9 Jul 95 p 2

[Report on interviews with Heybatollah Fazeli; Mr. Azhdari, chairman of the Housing Cooperatives Union; and Hoseyn Mirmiri, chairman of the Knitters and Weavers Cooperative Union, by unidentified radio, television, and newspaper correspondents on 8 July; place not given]

[FBIS Translated Text] **News Service—The chairman of the board of directors of the Cooperative Council of Tehran Province and the officials of six large cooperative companies of Tehran requested the rejection of the proposal by the Majles to combine the Ministry of Cooperatives with the Ministry of Commerce.**

In an interview with newspaper, radio, and television correspondents yesterday, considering the role of the cooperative sector in the national economy, Heybatollah Fazeli asked the Majles deputies to defend the independence and increase the power of this sector and in this way provide a basis for people's participation in economic activities in the true sense of the word.

He added: The cooperative sector has been formed without reliance on support or secondary powers and only on the basis of people's aid, and under the guidance of the Ministry of Cooperatives its activities are increasing every day.

The director of the board of directors of the Cooperative Council of Tehran Province pointed out the services of the cooperative sector in the national economy, especially in the area of elimination of unemployment, and asked the Majles deputies to support the cooperatives by offering proposals to expand the cooperative sector.

He said: Considering the increasing growth of the population and the issue of unemployment, it is in our interest to use the cooperatives as successful models in this connection rather than weakening them with regard to other sectors.

In continuation, pointing out that we do not intend to weaken the private sector, he added: Even though the 25,000 cooperative companies serve 80 percent of the people, in practice, cooperatives have not been supported.

He said: One of the reasons for the failure of the cooperatives was that the products of the factories were not placed at the disposal of the Ministry of Cooperatives, no foreign currency was allocated to cooperatives, and even the number of cooperatives under the control of the Ministry of Cooperatives was reduced.

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

Continuing this interview, Mr. Azhdari, chairman of the Housing Cooperatives Union, considered the existence of 25,000 cooperative companies in the country with the presence of the people's support for the Islamic economy of the country and said: In the Cooperative Council of Tehran Province alone, 506 cooperative production, distribution, and service companies are active.

Hoseyn Mirmiri, the chairman of the nationwide Knitters and Weavers Cooperative Union, also referred to the three years of activities of the Ministry of Cooperatives and did not consider this period appropriate for evaluating the operations of the Ministry of Cooperatives. He said: The past three years cannot be used as a criterion for the operations of the Ministry of Cooperatives. Rather, the organizational planning, the legal problems of the cooperatives, and the failure to allocate appropriate capital must also be taken into consideration.

He said: Why was the Ministry of Cooperatives created, so that today it should be combined? In the continuation of this press round-table, Rahimzadeh-Dabbaghi, from the Metal-Casting Cooperatives of Shahr-e Rey and Moradinasb and chairman of the Union of the Local Tehran Consumer Cooperative Companies, by presenting the need for the existence of the Ministry of Cooperatives, asked the Majles deputies to strengthen this organization rather than combine it.

Daily Views Accomplishments of Fourth Majles

95LA0376A Tehran SALAM in Persian 16 Aug 95 pp 2, 6

[FBIS Translated Text] Three years and a few months have passed since the Fourth Majles was inaugurated, and in a few months preparations will be under way for the next elections. Hence, the evaluation of the efficiency and activities of the Majles is important, especially since the majority group outside and inside the Majles did not learn the necessary lessons from the date of the operation of the phenomenon they created, but they are about to repeat the experience of four years ago on a broader scale and under worse conditions.

A comprehensive analysis of the activities of the Fourth Majles reveals that weak legislation—such as offering many proposals as urgent which were either rejected in the Majles, changed after several times going back and forth from the Council of Guardians, or, if they were ratified, were apparently unable to be implemented in the society, or were not implemented even if they could be—has created many problems, so that most often after a few months its ill effects became apparent. Let us leave this topic for another time and in this essay only address special instances that have been discussed recently.

1. As you know, the budget bill is one of the most important legislative bills as it regulates all the activities of the government for a fiscal year, and if there is any problem or shortcoming in this bill, it will disrupt the government activities and impose widespread damage to the society.

If our honorable readers will remember, last year, several times reminders were made that changes were needed in the figures cited in the government budget bill in the Majles, its coherence was destroyed, and the ratified bill had numerous problems, so that for about nine months, the legal implementation of the bill faced obstacles. Perhaps this was unprecedented in budget writing in Iran.

This year, too, in a different way, the Majles made changes in the budget that have created numerous problems; and at the present time, they have announced their readiness to eliminate these problems.

In the budget bill for this year, it was decided that all the government companies should deposit their revenues in a centralized account in the treasury and also receive their expenditures from the same source. This article was ratified with the justification of the necessity of financial discipline, but the reality was that the main result of ratifying such a bill was to defeat the government companies in order to prove that government companies are not efficient, since the effects and consequences of ratifying such an article were more obvious than could have been overlooked by anyone. Even if its implementation superficially increases financial order, no profit or property will remain in which the companies can observe order. For this reason, four months after its implementation, the Majles has recently announced that it is ready to revoke that note, and in the meantime, it is not clear who is responsible for the damages of the past few months and the future that the government companies have suffered as a result of this note.

2. Another ratification by the Majles was in regards to the foreign currency obligations reserve account, which they ratified in the law of the Second Plan. The increase in the amounts of this account that actually means a budget deficit and the printing of money without collateral, which is the main cause of inflation in 1373 [21 March 1994-20 March 1995], caused the Majles to ratify that the amounts in this account will not increase, whereas they did not know that an increase or lack of increase in the amounts is not by choice. If the decision is made not to have an increase, the importers of the previous years must pay for it, which is contrary to law

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

and reason, and the Council of Guardians most likely did not realize the actual nature of the note, otherwise, it would have announced it as contrary to religious law. Perhaps they should take it from the government, in which case, these amounts should have been projected sufficiently in the budget, which was not done. For this reason, the Central Bank pursued the first solution and immediately faced the opposition of the Majles deputies, even though this solution was a consequence of their own ratifications.

3. During Majles Week, when deputies were asked which was the most important ratified law in the Majles, they almost unanimously considered the Second Plan law the most important of their accomplishments. Now, we shall see what the fate of this most important law of the Majles is. In the previous paragraph, we referred to one of its notes, but the fate of this law becomes clear when we see how these annual budget bills have materialized.

Between the ratification of the Second Five-Year Plan and the ratification of the 1374 [21 March 1995-20 March 1996] budget, there are a few months. Hence, it is not expected that the Majles in this brief space of time will ignore a large part of its ratification in the Second Plan bill or consider it impractical. If the Majles is unable to project the next three months in an acceptable manner, how could it write a plan for the next five years?

The government revenues in the 1374 budget bill are about 17 percent over the revenues that were projected in the plan for this year. The expenditures have also been increased by the same ratio, but more interestingly, the details of the expenditures and revenues have changed even more. For example, the current expenditures have increased about 23 percent, and the developmental expenditures have not changed much at all. The budget deficit is 43 percent more than the plan projects.

If it is noted that the changes this year are such that they will create broader changes next year and in subsequent years, it becomes clear that in the next five years, the Second Plan will only be useful to fill the library shelves.

4. Another recent ratification of the Majles is to limit the requirements of Majles deputy candidates, including increasing the minimum age from 25 to 30 and, most importantly, requiring a bachelors degree. The latter condition was considered to be contrary to the Constitution of the Council of Guardians and has been sent to the Council for the Discernment of Expediency for a final decision.

At first, it may seem that this ratification is good and beneficial for the Majles, but scrutiny of the Majles operations shows that the goal of ratifying such a restriction is something else. To understand this goal, it is better to refer to the other decisions of the Majles in regards to electing the legal experts of the Council of Guardians.

The Council of Guardians is comprised of six religious jurists and six legal experts. The latter six are introduced by the head of the Judicial Branch and elected by the Majles. Activity in the Council of Guardians is a very specialized work and requires high levels of expertise and knowledge of jurisprudence and law.

Recently, six legal experts were introduced to the Majles by the head of the Judicial Branch in order for the Majles to choose three from among them. Even though among the introduced individuals there were distinguished legal experts and professors of the colleges of law, and in this regard they were very knowledgeable about legal concepts, ultimately, the Majles preferred one of the introduced individuals who was at the lowest level of legal knowledge compared to the others and for a very specialized responsibility, acting contrary to the rules. Of course, it was not very contrary to the rules. Rather, the main goal of this election is to send political persons from this faction and to make the Majles uniform. Hence, if the Majles truly wants educated and knowledgeable individuals, why does it not follow this goal in its relatively limited choice for the Council of Guardians? Should we believe their swearing by his holiness, 'Abbas, or believe in what we see with our own eyes?

The main goal of the recent restrictions that the Majles has imposed is to reduce the number of the probable rivals, because every restriction results in the elimination of a number of rivals. Since this restriction does not extend to the present deputies, its meaning is clearly understood in terms of choosing the legal experts of the Council of Guardians.

Manager Details Refah Chain Stores, Profit Shares

95LA0373f Tehran RESALAT in Persian 3 Jul 95 p 11

[FBIS Translated Text] **Tehran, IRNA—The general manager of the Refah Chain Stores informed the members of the Support Headquarters of the Market Regulation Plan about the progress to establish new stores throughout Iran and explained the procedures for and the status of the establishment of these stores, with the cooperation of the governors general and mayors of various cities and the participation of the government and private sector.**

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

In the 29th session of the Support Headquarters of the Market Regulation Plan, the general manager of these stores announced: Considering the commercial activities of the Refah Company and the cooperation of the banking system, the profit shares of the Chain Stores, on the basis of 20 percent annually, will be paid by the acting banks starting on the 28th of this month [19 July] to the purchasers of the shares by the same branch from which the shares were purchased.

According to a report by the Public Relations Office of the President, in yesterday's session of the Support Headquarters of the Market Regulation Plan, considering the report of the Ministry of Industries regarding the accumulation of edible oil in the producing of factories, it was decided that the Ministry of Commerce should expedite the distribution of shortening.

In this session, the budget of the Inspection and Supervision and Government Punishments Organization, which amounts to 25 billion rials [R], was approved to continue the activities and pursue the fight against price hiking and hoarding.

Also, in the continuation of yesterday's session, in a report on its operations, the Government Punishment Organization announced that last Khordad [22 May-21 June], 35,746 cases were filed in this organization, of which 21,919 were examined and regarding which a final ruling was issued, and the rest are being examined. Most of these cases consist of violations, such as price hiking, hoarding, selling outside the distribution network, failure to write the ratified price, hiding, and refusing to offer goods, failure to issue receipts, failure to implement pricing regulations, failure to declare inventory on time, and the mandatory sale of goods.

Based on this report, last Khordad, R14 billion was collected from violators as fines, and their goods were placed at the disposal of the people at the ratified price.

Daily Reports on Currency, Gold Rate

95LA0373I Tehran RESALAT in Persian 16 Jul 95 p 11

[FBIS Translated Text] **Tehran, IRNA—After two weeks of the Central Bank following the situation in the open gold market to decrease the price of the Bahar-e Azadi coin, on Saturday [15 July] the official price of one Bahar-e Azadi coin increased to 360,000 rials [R] in gold market transactions.**

Last Wednesday, after the Tehran Gold Market decreased the price of the Bahar-e Azadi coin to R313,000 following the market, the Central Bank announced the rate of the coins at R335,000 for depositors.

Some of those involved in the gold market believe that the Central Bank in the past two weeks left the initiative to the open gold market.

On Saturday, in the Tehran Gold Market, the price of the old Bahar-e Azadi coin increased to R380,000, whereas in transactions last Wednesday in the Tehran market, the coin had no buyers even at R340,000.

Today's Rate of Coins

Also, based on the report by the RESALAT economic correspondent, the selling price of the new-design Bahar-e Azadi coin reached R380,000 this morning.

The selling rate of the old-design Bahar-e Azadi coin also was announced at R400,000 by gold sellers.

Based on this report, the selling rate of a mesqal [five grams] of 17-carat gold was R156,000, and one gram of 18-carat gold was R36,000.

Some jewelers mention the rumors about the increase in the value of the dollar vis-a-vis the rial in the foreign markets as the factor in the recent increase in the price of coins.

Daily Interviews People on Consumption of Goods

95LA0372F Tehran RESALAT in Persian 23 Jul 95 p 11

[FBIS Translated Text] **Economic Division—One of the essential problems of our present society is the increase in the level of consumption of goods and services, which may have various causes, including the population increase, the change in the consumer model of the society, expectations of the people of enjoying economic welfare, advertisements encouraging greater consumption, the increase in income, etc.**

A glance at the not-too-distant past reveals that even though during that period, some restrictions prevented people's access to certain goods and needs, mostly because of the good tradition of preventing extravagance and waste, they practiced maximum conservation in consumption. A comparison between consumption in the society today and yesterday shows the fact that our present society suffers from the phenomenon of excessive consumerism.

The economic correspondent of RESALAT, in order to examine this issue, has conducted interviews with several citizens who have observed consumption yesterday and today, which we will read together.

Qorbani, a retired government employee, referring to increase in consumption in the society, says: In the past, the consumption of food items was not like now. People

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

consumed less rice. They consumed less fruits and other food items.

He mentions the increase in population as one of the problems of the society and adds: In the past, the population was not large, and the resources could meet the needs of the people, but at the present, it is not so, and steps must also be taken to prevent the population increase.

Mohammadi, a retired government employee, says about the advantages of conservation: Being frugal and conservative are very good things that we have inherited from great people. In the past, people had a peaceful life through conservation in terms of food, clothing, and housing. If in the present society and our young generation conservation becomes dominant, both families and the whole country will benefit a great deal.

Regarding consumption of clothing and housing, he says: In the past, people would wear one suit for a long time, but some families today buy several expensive suits every year. Housing, too, in the past was not so luxurious. At the present, it has become luxurious and ceremonial, which is very harmful for the society, especially the young and the low-income strata.

Hasani, another retired government employee, says: Regarding where the problem of consumption starts, in my opinion, the present problems of consumption stem from the fact that there is a great deal of money in people's hands. In the past, people did not have so much money. Although a large amount of this money is at the disposal of one group, this group escalates consumption so much that it spreads to the low-income strata as well, and they also go after massive consumption.

Soleymani, a retired employee of a government office, says: The result of low consumption is savings, by which a person can make a comfortable living for himself and his family. I myself have been conserving from the old times.

Regarding food consumption, he says: In the past, the consumption of meat and bread was common, but rice was not used very much. At the present, it is consumed a great deal, and the increases in price cause the increase in rice imports, which imposes great expenditures on the country.

Also, criticizing the bad situation of bread baking, he points out: Steps must be taken to prevent this problem and the waste of God's gift, because at the present time, almost half of the bread that is bought is wasted.

Ebrahimi, who says he is a businessman, says about consumption of various goods: In the not-too-distant past, consumption was controlled, but now this is not so. For example, some people who have low incomes acquire a great deal of luxury items, which affects both the economy of the family and the economy of the society. He adds: In the past, girls were trained as the economic managers of the family in a way that they could function in life on a low income and also have savings. Now, this good tradition has been eliminated, and from the very beginning, by providing or requesting a great deal of dowry, which is often procured through borrowing, they brainwash the girl into believing that she should be a "consumer."

In connection with solving the problems of excessive consumption, he says: Widespread cultural efforts must be made, even though a great deal of time is needed. The work must start and continue until, God willing, we achieve results.

Imanlu Farhangi, a retired person, in connection with consumption in the past and present, says: At the present, the competition and rivalry take place for consumption in various areas, which has no results but a great deal of problems for the people and great cost for the government.

Concerning the reason for excessive consumption in society, Khakbaz says: In the past, when people wanted to buy clothing or food, they would go to several centers to find a low price. Now they go to the first place and buy without knowing if the item is expensive or cheap.

Concerning the culture of conservation in the past, 'Abdi says: Our elders taught us to respect food and not throw it away until we had used it properly. For example, a lot of respect was paid to bread, which prevented its being wasted.

In connection with the problem created by the change in the consumer model, he said: At the present, some families cannot easily identify with their relatives because ceremonies and luxuries have infiltrated all aspects of life, including housing, clothing, and food, and have made relationships between people difficult.

Khosravani, who says he is a teacher, says: The advertisement in the society must focus its efforts on developing exports of domestically produced goods and in some cases on preventing the consumption of foreign goods, whereas at the present time, our producer has his eyes on the domestic markets and work harder to increase consumption in the domestic market, whereas they should think about improving the quality of goods, as the people of Japan and South Korea have done.

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

Pakistan

Daily Discounts Possiblity of U.S. Help in Kashmir

BK0110144395 Rawalpindi NAWA-I-WAQT in Urdu 1 Oct 95 p 10

[Editorial: "Kashmir Issue—Expecting Good From the United States is Useless"]

[FBIS Translated Text] According to a news report, arrangements are being made for a meeting between the Indian and Pakistani prime ministers. The meeting will be held during the NAM [Non-Aligned Movement] Conference to be held in Colombia in October. U.S. proposals on the normalization of relations between India and Pakistan and a solution to the Kashmir issue will be discussed at this meeting.

According to the reports, the United States has accelerated its efforts to establish contact between India and Pakistan after the pattern of the "Oslo Talks," and important officials of the U.S. Administration and Armed Forces have visited the Line of Control to investigate the facts. Unfortunately, the report published in Pakistani newspapers has been disclosed by Pakistani sources that are trying to smooth over Pakistani public opinion regarding the U.S. agenda for the subcontinent, which will soon come under consideration. Also unfortunate is the fact that the degree to which the United States cares for Pakistani interests can be guessed at by the condition of the "independent state of Palestine," which was formed as a result of the Oslo Talks and hardly enjoys the powers of a municipality. This also proves that the United States is stepping back from holding a plebiscite in Kashmir, which was proposed in the resolution passed by the United States; India had also accepted it though it later backed out.

It is against the interests of both Pakistan and Kashmir if the United States has changed its mind and some second, third, or middle option is being considered. What could be more unfortunate for the country and the nation than the fact that the Pakistani Government is joining this process, either purposely or without giving it serious thought. Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto's public stance on this issue is quite clear cut, but it is a pity that we ourselves are confusing the Kashmir issue. According to the agenda of partition and Indian independence, Kashmir, as a Muslim majority area and a Muslim princely state adjacent to Pakistan, was to become a part of Pakistan. India took a large part of Kashmir through aggression, but the United Nations did not accept it and insisted on settling the issue through a plebiscite.

The United States itself has been supporting these resolutions. With the passage of time, however, the Kashmir issue disappeared from the international scene due to the inactivity of the Pakistani Government. With the start of the independence movement in Kashmir in the 90's, however, world attention was once again drawn toward Kashmir. The Pakistani Government proved to be inefficient once again and did not put the Kashmir issue into perspective for the world community. That is why there are all kinds of proposals to resolve this dispute. We have already missed a few opportunities. Even leaders of the freedom movement in occupied Kashmir do not seem to be unanimous on the question of the plebiscite, and they claim that whatever decisions they make on Kashmir will also be accepted by Azad Kashmir's political leadership.

Through these columns, we pointed toward the implications of the Azad Kashmir president and prime minister's visit to New York and settlement of the Kashmir issue through an arrangement like the "Oslo Talks." In fact, Pakistan should not deviate even an inch from the agenda of partition and independence of India and the UN resolutions. Until recently, Kashmiri leaders, particularly Sardar Qayium, used to say this; now, however, even his attitude has changed.

The freedom movement in Kashmir is proof that the Kashmiri Muslims have rejected the 50-year subjugation of India. The way the Pakistan flag is hoisted in Indian-occupied Kashmir on the occasion of Pakistan's independence day and the slogans of "Pakistan Zindabad" [Long Live Pakistan] are raised in public meetings and processions is an expression of Kashmiri aspirations. Also, India's efforts to avoid the plebiscite over the past 50 years prove that it is aware of the Kashmiris will. It is the responsibility of the Pakistan Government that it should not accept a solution of the Kashmir problem that is contrary to the interests of Pakistan and Kashmir. We should not place any real hope in the United States.

Radio Reports on OIC's Declaration on Kashmir

BK0310044295 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in English 0300 GMT 3 Oct 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The OIC [Organization of the Islamic Conference] foreign ministers have urged all its members to coordinate their efforts and take joint action to promote the just cause and fundamental rights of Kashmiris during the current UN General Assembly session. In a declaration issued after the day-long meeting in New York, they adopted the report of the OIC contact group on Jammu and Kashmir. The foreign ministers recommended that OIC member states should intensify their contacts with other countries to support the cause of the Kashmiri people at the United Nations and other international bodies. It was decided

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

that the chairman of the conference will address a communication to the UN secretary general with the request that the memorandum submitted by the Kashmiri leaders to the OIC be circulated as an official document of the United Nations. The meeting endorsed the memorandum of Jammu and Kashmir dispute presented by the two representatives of the Kashmiri people. It also condemned the desecration of the historic Islamic complex and mosque at Charar Sharif and called for immediate and safe release of all the hostages.

The meeting expressed regret on the decision of the Indian Government to refuse a visit of the OIC fact-finding mission to Jammu and Kashmir and called on India to allow the international human rights organizations to visit the held valley. Expressing concern over continuing massive violations of human rights of the Kashmiri people, it called for an immediate end to the repression against the Kashmiri people. The meeting urged the OIC members to persuade India to cease forthwith the gross and systematic human rights violations of the Kashmiri people.

The meeting reaffirmed the commitment of the OIC to promote a peaceful political settlement to the Jammu and Kashmir dispute based on UN resolutions. It also supported efforts of the Pakistani Government to initiate meaningful dialogue for resolving the dispute.

Cabinet Hails OIC for Kashmir 'Observer Status'

BK0510060095 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in Urdu 0200 GMT 5 Oct 95

[FBIS Translated Text] At its meeting in Muzaffarabad yesterday, the Azad Jammu and Kashmir Cabinet overwhelmingly hailed the granting of observer status by the Organization of the Islamic Conference [OIC] to the Azad Jammu and Kashmir Government and the All Parties Hurriyat [Freedom] Conference [APHC]. The Cabinet meeting, presided over by acting Prime Minister Chaudhary Mohammad Yusuf, said this important decision of the OIC would have far- reaching effects on the ongoing liberation struggle of the Kashmiri people.

The Azad Jammu and Kashmir Cabinet paid tributes to the prime minister of Pakistan and the president and the prime minister of Azad Jammu and Kashmir as well as the chairman of the APHC for their efforts to promote the Kashmir cause. The Cabinet also lauded the efforts of the chairman of the Parliamentary Committee on Kashmir for his contribution. Several Kashmiri leaders have also welcomed the OIC decision.

Leghari Meets With Businessmen, Addresses Karachi

BK0310104095 Islamabad THE NATION in English 3 Oct 95 pp 1, 13

[Report by Wahab Kazimi]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Karachi — President Sardar Farooq Ahmad Khan Leghari has stated that he has talked to the Federal Interior Minister about the ongoing operation in Karachi and cordoning the localities and harassment of people in Karachi. Positive results of the talks would be there soon he added.

This he stated while talking to businessmen here on Monday [2 October] during his two day visit to the city. The business delegation was led by the President of Karachi Chambers of Commerce and Industry, Haji Shafiqur Rahman. Among others who also attended were Behram D. Avari, Higgins of Shell Pakistan Limited and certain other prominent businessmen.

He advised the businessmen to come forward and promote education in the city.

The businessmen talking to the President said that violence in Karachi and the police and Rangers action have assumed grave situation. They urged the President to intervene as the law and order is deteriorating day by day.

The businessmen stressed the need for resolving the Karachi crisis through political dialogue and showed fear that such a bad situation can not be handled by the Rangers and the police alone.

The businessmen suggested that torture on arrested persons in custody and their killing is a matter of concern.

There are law in the country. These persons found involved in activities should be produced in the court within a prescribed time. Such an action would be according to the tenets of Constitution, they stressed.

Haji Shafiqur Rahman stated that Karachi water problem has assumed an alarming proportion and he showed concern as the KWSB [Karachi Water Supply Board] does not have any plan to meet the requirement of supply of water. "If no proper steps are taken, then the city would turn into semi-desert and all industrial infrastructure would collapse."

According to an estimate, the current water supply is about 30 per cent less than requirement.

Agencies add: President Leghari emphasised that Government has to keep the doors open for political dialogue with major political elements to resolve political issues.

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

Simultaneously, it will be able to combat terrorism effectively, the President said.

The President pointed out that Karachi is the hub of all industrial, trading and economic activities and any disturbance which takes place here adversely affects not only the individuals here but all parts of Pakistan.

He said this warrants everyone to join hands with the government in restoring normalcy here so that economic activities could pick up pace with more investment to come from abroad.

Speaking about the obtaining political situation, President Leghari observed that at every level of the government there is a realisation to find out a political solution to the Karachi problem and also to take necessary administrative measures to restore normalcy in this city.

Further on Leghari Remarks

BK0510071795 Karachi BUSINESS RECORDER in English 3 Oct 95 p 14

[Unattributed report]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] KARACHI: President Farooq Ahmad Khan Leghari said in Karachi on Monday [2 October] that the disturbances in Karachi, which is the hub of industrial activity, are adversely affecting economic activity all over the country.

At a meeting with the city traders and industrialists at the Sindh Governor House, the President called upon all segments of society to join hands with the Government to tackle the law and order problem in the city so that economic activities could be revived as early as possible.

He said more investments are expected from abroad and for this purpose, a congenial atmosphere is to be created in the country.

Leghari said that any disturbance that takes place here will have its impact in all parts of Pakistan. The Government, he said, is making all-out efforts to bring normalcy in the city without any loss of time. There is an improvement in the situation and he expressed the hope that the Government will be able to combat terrorism effectively soon.

He said that the Government has to keep the doors open for political dialogue with major political elements to resolve political issues. At every level of the Government, there is a realisation of the need to find out a political solution to the Karachi problem and also to take necessary administrative measures to restore normalcy in the megapolis.

Earlier, the delegation of businessmen apprised the President of their problems with particular reference to the law and order situation. They assured the President of their support in the restoration of peace and normalcy in Karachi.

The President of APTMA [All Pakistan Textile Mills Association] Anwar Ahmed Tata apprised the President of the problems being faced by the textile industry and asked him to direct the Sindh Government to allot 50 acres of land for the establishment of the Textile University in Karachi. The President directed the Sindh Governor and the Chief Secretary to arrange the land for the University.

Afzal Ahmed adds: The President of Karachi Chamber of Commerce and Industry (KCCI) Haji Shafiqur Rahman, talking to newsmen after the hour-long meeting with Leghari said that the businessmen were assured that the government was making every possible effort to bring the situation to normal.

The KCCI President said that the delegation which included 30 members of managing committee of the KCCI, Chairman of All Pakistan Textile Mills Association (Aptma) Anwar Ahmed Tata, Vice-Chairman of Overseas Investors Chamber of Commerce and Industry Thomas Hagens, Bahram D. Avari and Hashwani of Hotels Association, was told by President Leghari that officials of Federal Interior Ministry and Sindh Government have been asked to minimise the house-to-house search operations in Karachi which will be counter-productive.

Leghari also sought the business community's support in government's efforts for improving the law and order situation in the city. He said that he will be taking two members of the business community in his delegation during his visit to Azerbaijan and asked KCCI to nominate one businessman for the delegation.

APP adds: President Farooq Ahmad Khan Leghari has stressed the need for developing a "tax culture" in the country in which every citizen pays tax to the Government.

Talking to editors and senior journalists at the Governor House here on Monday, the President said the Government had good relations with businessmen, whether in Karachi or Lahore or elsewhere.

He pointed out that whatever happened in Lahore took place on the question of taxes which was very sad.

The President said he had been consistently saying that wherever income generates, tax must be paid. There should be no segment of society which should be exempted from paying taxes if he is liable to taxation, he added.

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

He said he also favoured that agriculture class, the farmers, must also pay income tax. This is important because of the principle involved. It is important to develop a tax culture where documentation is available.

He pointed out that no Government or organization could function if revenues were drastically cut.

He said, if the people were willing to get service like supply of water in Karachi where people pay much more for supplies through tankers, they will have to pay the tax. But unfortunately, President Leghari said the people do not want to pay taxes. They do not want to get themselves documented and evade payment of tax.

He said the government wants to reduce the discretionary powers of tax collectors but for this a tax-culture will have to be developed.

APP adds: Leghari said here on Monday that the government was making all out efforts to rectify the situation in Karachi at political level through political dialogue and discussion on one hand and administrative measures on the other.

Talking to city editors and senior journalists at the governor house, the president pointed out that law and order problem, especially in Karachi is a serious problem and the government and every citizen was concerned about it. He said definite efforts are on to improve the government's intelligence system.

The President said it was a fact that there are defects and shortcomings in the performance and working of police or other agencies. Similarly, he observed there has been weaknesses and shortcomings in media handling. He however, emphasised that there should be truthful reporting.

Replying to a point raised by journalist about extortions by police, President Leghari said that it was in his knowledge and he had mentioned about it to the administration as well that police stations are sold out not only in Karachi but in other parts of the country also.

He observed that in Karachi the police stations are sold out on higher price because there is more money and more opportunities here. He noted that extortions start when police gets involved in crime combating.

Sri Lanka

Foreign Minister Assails UN Sanctions Procedures

BK0310115295 Colombo Sri Lanka Broadcasting Corporation International Service in English 1045 GMT 3 Oct 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Foreign Minister Lakshman Kadirgamar has criticized the way the Security Council reaches decisions about imposing sanctions on offending states. He cited this in a speech to the General Assembly yesterday as an example of why more needed to be done to make the council truly accessible, democratic, and responsible to UN members, on whose behalf it is meant to act. He said the situations in which sanctions are imposed vary greatly and no uniform rules are applicable. Sanctions cannot be applied with surgical precision to impact exclusively on those at whom they are aimed. They could hurt innocent civilians and affect entire economies. Some impact adversely on countries that were in no way involved in the transgressions of the region against which sanctions were imposed.

Minister Kadirgamar did not mention any country by name, but among current targets of sanctions are Iraq, because of its 1990 invasion of Kuwait; the [word indistinct] Yugoslavia state consisting of Serbia and Montenegro, because of its support for the Bosnian Serbs fighting the Sarajevo government; and Libya, over the 1988 bombing of an airliner over Lockerbie, Scotland. The foreign minister pointed out that decisions by the council on the imposition of sanctions were not based on prior consultations with countries concerned to access carefully the true impact, extent, and reach of such extreme measures. He said that since sanctions are mandatory, all countries were obliged to implement them even when they have no part in the decisions leading to their enactment.

Military Claims 7 LTTE Boats Destroyed in Battle

BK0410102195 Colombo DAILY NEWS in English 4 Oct 95

[Unattributed report — received via Internet]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The navy destroyed seven LTTE [Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam] boats and killed at least 30 LTTE cadres including five senior Black Sea Tigers on the seas off Mullaitivu, Northern Sri Lanka, on Monday [2 October] evening.

The operational headquarters of the Defence Ministry said the fighting which lasted for two hours began when a large number of LTTE boats tried to attack a Sri Lanka Navy convoy sailing from Kankasanthurai in the North to Trincomalee in the East. The convoy was escorted by Navy Fast Attack Crafts.

One explosives-laden LTTE boat attempted to ram a navy landing craft (LCM) carrying army personnel. The navy craft and several other fast attack craft's (FAC) retaliated and the LTTE boat was completely destroyed.

During the confrontation, 15 army personnel aboard the navy LCM were killed and 40 others received minor injuries. Four navy officers and seven sailors aboard the

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

LCM and one officer and two sailors aboard a fast attack craft were injured

LTTE transmissions monitored by the security forces have confirmed that the LTTE's self-styled 'Majors' llainela and Arunan, 'Captains' Thanigai and Sugilan and 'Lieutenant' Amadhan have been killed during the sea battle.

In another incident, six Tigers and three police Special Task Force (STF) personnel including a Sub Inspector were killed on Monday in a clash at Tikkodai, Batticaloa. Seven STF men were injured.

Offensive Reportedly Kills 'at Least 200 Rebels'

BK0410101895 Colombo DAILY NEWS in English 4 Oct 95

[Unattributed report — received via Internet]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] At least 200 rebels have been killed and over 250 severely wounded during Operation Thunder Strike which entered its third day yesterday, the Operational Headquarters [HQ] of the Ministry of Defence said.

Troops have recovered 144 dead bodies of rebels and their military equipment, it said, adding that one officer and 24 soldiers have been killed in action. A substantial number of women cadres were reported to be among the LTTE [Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam] casualties.

Two officers and 46 soldiers were wounded in the operation which began on Sunday [1 October] when three army brigades broke out from the Forward Defended Localities (FDLs) of Palaly base at dawn and captured the Achchuveli area comprising 21 square kilometres.

The operational headquarters said the troops successfully overcame enemy resistance, inflicting heavy casualties among LTTE cadres. "A large number of terrorists attacked troops operating in Pannalaikadduwan, Navakkeri and Puthur West early last morning. There were male and female cadres among the terrorists. Soldiers fought back valiantly, repulsing the attacks".

Heavy fighting continued until dawn yesterday when two groups comprising hundreds of terrorists attempted to infiltrate the new army defences between Ponnalaikadduwan-Navakkeri and Puthur West-Avarankal, the HQ said.

"LTTE transmissions monitored by the security forces indicated that they were in total disarray as a result of the effective counter-attack of the troops," the operational headquarters said. The soldiers were supported by field artillery.

Reports said that the LTTE attack was led by their Deputy Leader Balraj and Jaffna Peninsula leader Swarnam.

Defence sources described the heavy LTTE casualty rate as a "major setback to the Tigers, because the fighting took place in the Jaffna peninsula and senior leaders had to take part in the attack".

Troops had captured the areas of Achchuveli, Thoppu, Navakkeri, Vasavilan, Puthur, Pathameni, Avarankal, Iddaikadu and Vallai. Troops are consolidating their positions in the captured areas.

This setback for the Tigers was reminiscent of the huge defeat they suffered on July 28 this year when they tried to attack the Weli Oya army camp in North-Eastern Sri Lanka. More than 430 Tigers including a large number of women and child fighters were killed in that battle while the Lankan army lost only two men .

LTTE Statement Admits Major Loss in Battle

BK0510044495 Hong Kong AFP in English 0414 GMT 5 Oct 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] COLOMBO, Oct 5 (AFP) — The Tamil Tiger guerrillas Thursday [5 October] admitted losing 150 of their fighters during a major battle with security forces in Sri Lanka's northern Jaffna peninsula.

The Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE), in a statement from the rebel group's London office, said heavy fighting erupted when it launched a counteroffensive against a security force advance on their Jaffna stronghold.

"The counteroffensive was led by the Tigers' Women's Brigade, which penetrated several kilometres deep into the military lines and attacked on several fronts with light mortars and light machine guns," the statement said.

"During the four-hour battle the military kept the skies above the battle field ablaze with continuous flares. 150 LTTE fighters attained martyrdom in the battle. The military also suffered heavy casualties," it said.

An earlier LTTE statement Wednesday had placed their losses at eight killed. "The LTTE international secretariat regrets the delay (in giving the latest statement) due to unavoidable circumstances in reporting news from the battle front," the LTTE statement said.

The military had claimed killing more than 200 LTTE cadres in the battle on Tuesday and said it handed back 118 out of the 149 bodies of guerrillas it recovered from the battlefield.

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

In three days of fighting in the island's embattled northern and eastern regions, a total of 73 security personnel were killed for the claim of 290 LTTE cadres killed by the military.

The Tigers are waging a struggle for a homeland for minority Tamils in northern and eastern Sri Lanka. More than 50,000 people have died in the conflict, which has dragged on since 1972.

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

BULK RATE
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
PERMIT NO. 352
MERRIFIELD, VA.

This is a U.S. Government publication produced by the Foreign Broadcast Information Service (FBIS). Its contents in no way represent the policies, views, or attitudes of the U.S. Government.

FBIS collects, translates, disseminates, and analyzes foreign open-source information on behalf of the U.S. Government. Its publications may contain copyrighted material. ***Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.***

— Bracketed indicators before the first sentence of each item describe the way in which the material was processed by FBIS.

— Headlines and all bracketed explanatory notes are supplied by FBIS.

— Personal and place names are rendered in accordance with the decisions of the U.S. Board on Geographic Names as adapted by FBIS. Unverified names in radio and television material appear in parentheses and are spelled phonetically; words and phrases in parentheses preceded by a question mark are unclear in the original and deduced from context.

SUBSCRIPTION INFORMATION

U.S. Government Customers

For a list of FBIS products, to subscribe to an FBIS publication, or to indicate a change of address contact:

FBIS
P.O. Box 2604
Washington, DC 20013-2604
Telephone: (202) 338-6735
FAX: (703) 733-6042

Non-Government Customers

Subscriptions are available from the National Technical Information Service:

NTIS
5285 Port Royal Road
Springfield, VA 22161
Telephone: (703) 487-4630
FAX: (703) 321-8547

New subscribers should expect a 30-day delay in receipt of the first issue.